

俺の異世界 姉妹が 白蓮 じゃない！

3



緋色の雨
hitronoame

illustration

原人
genzin

Ore no Isekai Shimai ga Jichou Shinai!

Arc 3 - Let's make a peaceful school life

by Hihiro no Ame

[Novel Updates](#)

Translator: [Rhex Translations](#)

Epub: [Trollo WN/LN EPUB](#)

Prologue

Rizelheim — A venerable kingdom with a rich history going back over 400 years. It is also the country in which I reside as a member of the Grances family.

For the past five days, I had been in a carriage that left north from the Grances territory to the capital city of Rizelheim. The capital city was built alongside a river in a large plain.

We heard that there is a huge festival there at the beginning of every year — That's why Alice, Claire, Sophia, and I are travelling there, along with a few maids.

Even if I say that that's not the only reason we're travelling here. We're doing research on the festival and on the layout of the city in hopes of further improving the Grances territory.

And we've now reached the outer limits of the kingdom.

The majority of the roads are just packed and flattened soil, stone houses are built all across the landscape, and the cityscape is similar to that of an early European medieval city.

The streets are packed with hundreds of people. I've seen national festivals before, but this seems to be a bit too flashy.

"There are so many people here. Is it like this every year?"

"This year is also a celebration of Liselotte-sama's twelfth birthday."

That doesn't tell me anything.....Who is she?

"Liselotte von Rizelheim, do you not know who that is otouto-kun?"

"Rizelheim....it's the name of the kingdom. So, is she a princess or something?"

"The youngest daughter of the King. She's beautiful with a gentle personality. It's rumoured that she has the most beautiful voice in the entire country. She's adored by the King and the Prince and is also loved by everyone in the capital."

"I see. So she's also turning twelve today."

In this world, kids age must faster than on Earth. That's why when a child turns twelve they are considered to now be in adulthood. Because the festival coincides with a popular princesses' birthday, the size of the festival is even bigger than normal.

By the way, because it has been two years since the issues with the Marquis of Gramp, Sophia will be turning twelve at the end of this year, but I was born around the same time as the Princess.

I think I've gotten used to the idea that at such a young age the people of this world consider you to be an adult, but someone that young still looks very young to me. Apparently, someone aged twelve is about the same as a junior high or high school student in Japan, but most people of that age are still treated like children.

"Apparently, the Princess will be singing in the town square today."

"Oh.....singing. That should be interesting."

"It may not be worth going. She'll most likely be singing from a second-floor balcony of the castle. On top of that, we'll be in a large crowd of people. Good luck trying to hear her voice in all of that."

"What is that supposed to mean?"

"It's not like she's singing in a concert hall. You won't even be able to tell she's singing from so far away."

.....I see. She's performing outside.

I was interested in hearing her voice, but it seems like it would be rather pointless to go knowing that. Let's give up on the idea of hearing her sing and instead we can go visit the shops and stalls of the capital.

We continued along the main road that led the to the royal castle in the heart of the city.

"Fuaaaa, it's amazing! It's so amazing, Leon onii-chan! The stalls are lined up as far as I can see!"

"You can look around, just don't

get lost~”

Sophia ran off with her hands waving in the air and Milli quickly chased after her. I showed a wry smile as I watched this sight.

Sophia just turned eleven during the last few days of the year. In the time she’s been in school she seems to have become much happier.

She’s no longer even scared of meeting new people but I guess that is a good thing.

“Sophia sure is energetic.”

“She is.....Alice, what is that?”

Alice was currently holding several meat skewers in her hands. I could tell the meat was juicy and smelled quite good.

“Ah, this? It’s horn rabbit meat. I bought them at one of the stalls.”

“Horn rabbit?”

“It’s a type of monster that lives around here.”

“.....Is it safe to eat the meat of a monster?”

I’m afraid that would cause some stomach problems.

“The monsters of this world are mutated by the mana in the atmosphere. It makes them even more delicious than an ordinary animal.”

“Seriously? That’s the first time I’ve heard that.”

“That’s what I’ve heard from everyone. The magical power they absorb into their body makes them incredibly delicious.”

That’s kind of surprising to hear, but if Alice says so it must be true.

There are a few different types of monsters that inhabit the Grances area but I didn’t know this at all.

“It reproduces a lot and is very easy to hunt due to its low combat ability. Because the meat is so delicious, I’ve heard that it is incredibly popular. There are some hunters who specialize in horn rabbit.”

“Well.....it does look delicious.”

“Do you want a bite?”

I silently grabbed Alice’s arms and pulled it close to take a bite.

“Wai-, Leon?”

.....It really is quite good. It’s very juicy, but not greasy. It may be because this is so fresh, but I think this is probably the best meat I’ve had since coming to this world.

“Mo~u.....You have bad manners. You’re supposed to say ‘Ah~’ at a time like that.”

“I thought that would be your plan. So, I acted before you could. It was very tasty though.”

“It’s Rizerheim’s speciality.”

“Hee~....Horn rabbit, huh? Do you think it would be possible to raise them in our territory?”

“I don’t think it would be possible. The Grances territory is too warm and the grass the horn rabbit feeds on does not grow there.”

“Hmm.....Then, could we import them from the capital....”

“I think that would also be impossible.”

“Huh, why?”

“Because it will take about five days on a carriage to reach our home. It may be fine during the winter, but during the summer it would definitely rot.”

“Damn....”

When I thought that there was no delicious meat in this world I could endure it. Now that I know such a delicious meat exists I have to have it. What can I do?

“—Hah, that’s it! Let’s rebuild the city in an area where the horn rabbit lives!”

“Do you really like it that much? What you’re saying is ridiculous; are you just trying to make me angry?”

“Of course not, Claire. Try some of this skewer. I may be joking about moving the city, but this meat is really delicious.”

“It’s just horn rabbit meat, right? It certainly is delicious, but there are several other types of meat that are equally good.”

“Eh, seriously?”

“At least that’s what I’ve heard. When it comes to animal monsters, there are several that are really delicious.”

.....Huh? Alice also knows that? Or am I the only one that doesn’t know?

It makes sense that Alice would know; after all, she travelled all over the world before I met her. As for Claire, I guess she tried some monster meat when she was travelling to another territory.

There are no refrigerators in this world so the only way to experience a territory’s delicacy is to eat it locally.

And there are no monsters with delicious meat in the Grances territory so I have lived all this time without knowing about it.

What a huge regret!

“Alice, we will develop a refrigerator when we return to our territory.”

“Okay, but is that really possible?”

“Eeeehhhh!? The Alice cheat was able to put a temperature control system on the uniforms, but you don’t think it’s possible to create a fridge!?”

“I told you to stop calling me a cheat.....Well then, the first issue would be using inscription magic to create the fridge. Inscription magic uses the trace amounts of magical power that exists in every living being. The effect that comes from inscription magic is usually minor.”

“Ah, I see....”

That does make sense. The temperature adjustment for the uniforms is only a couple degrees. Moreover, this temperature adjustment only affects the part of the uniform that touches the skin.

“Would it be possible with spirit magic?”

“The user would need to be constantly attending to the fridge to keep it cooled.”

“It wouldn’t be possible for the mage to just leave it after creating the desired effect?”

“Think about it like this, black magic uses the converted magical power as it is, so the effect is usually instant. Spirit magic offers the magical power to a spirit and requests a specific task of them. This type of magic has a short duration, but usually, it won’t last longer than a few seconds.”

“Is that the case for you as well?”

“Yeah. I think the effect would end a few seconds after I stopped using the magic.”

“I see...”

I thought it may be possible for Alice, but I guess I was wrong. It can’t be helped, I’ll have to think about this some more on the carriage ride home.

Maybe I’ll try to find a monster that can be raised in our territory. I continued thinking about this as we walked around the festival for a few more hours.

There were several more food stalls lined up along the roads and there were even a few stalls selling different types of folk crafts.

I thought about trading with someone if something caught my eye, but nothing has so far.

That’s when, as I was considering it about time that we left to go home, Sophia stopped in front of a tailor’s shop.

“Leon onii-chan, I want to go in this shop!”

“Eh, you want to go.....to that shop?”

“Don’t you see the name Wells on the shop? I was told by girls in class that Wells clothing is the best in the entire continent!”

“Fumu...”

I’m guessing a girl that had heard rumours from the kingdom told Sophia about this place.

Wells is supposedly the finest clothing in the area, but Sophia is currently wearing a dress that is of a much higher quality than anything else that would

be available in this world.....

What should I do? When I turned to Alice and Claire for advice, they both just looked away.

Chapter 1-1: Identity Crisis

Alice brand clothing. It is clothing made using a design from a different world, made with technology that doesn't exist in this world and using this world's finest thread.

The dress currently being worn by Sophia would be classified as a luxury item even in Japan. This world is probably over a hundred years away from being able to make a dress of this quality.

Sophia, while wearing this dress, is staring, with her eyes sparkling, at the clothing shop Wells.....Well, I wonder what will happen.

"Leon onii-chan, can I not go inside?"

"W-Well, that's...."

"Is it not okay? Am I causing you trouble, Leon onii-chan?"

She lowers her head and looks upward at me. How can I possibly say no to her now?

"I-If that's what you want Sophia, it's fine."

"Yay! Then, let's go look at clothes with Leon onii-chan!"

"S-Sure."

Eh, how did it become like this!? We entered the store together. By the way, Alice and Claire were waiting outside the store for us.

"Hello~"

Sophia enters the shop with a bright voice. The sight of her blonde hair shaking back and forth was cute, but to me, she looked like a little devil in this situation.

"Welcome to Wells' Clothing Shop. Our clothing is the best in the country. We even provide clothing for the royal family –"

After the clerk saw us, he seemed to freeze. Sophia didn't notice and ran up to the shopkeep with a bright smile.

“Please, show me your clothes~”

“.....”

“Clerk?”

“Eh, right, excuse me! So you wanted to see our clothing!?”

The clerk looks over Sophia’s dress. I have a feeling I know what he’s thinking.

“I want you to pick out some clothing that will suit Sophia.”

“Clothing that will suit.....this ojou-sama?”

“Yes. I heard that the clothing available here is the best in the country!”

“We were in the past. Our shop took pride in our reputation, but.....that’s no longer the case!”

Why is he speaking in past tense!?

I wonder if he’ll be okay.....Maybe he thinks we came to pick a fight. It may be better to just take Sophia and leave.

Before I can say anything to the clerk, he ran to the back of the store.

“....What’s wrong with the clerk?”

“I wonder.....Maybe he’s having a bit of an identity crisis?”

“.....Identity crisis?”

“You don’t need to worry about it, Sophia.”

It seemed better not to explain the words from another world to her. By the way, it means something like self-loss or feeling insecure about one’s identity.

But, Sophia should be able to read the clerk’s emotions. Well, she may be able to understand how he’s feeling, but not necessarily know the reason why he feels that way.

“Wells-sama! Please, come out Wells!”

“Quit being so noisy!”

From the back of the store, I could hear the conversation between the clerk and what sounded like a middle-aged man. The middle-aged man had the same

name as the shop.

“—Can’t you look after the store on your own?”

“No, it’s not that—”

The shopkeeper’s voice was coming closer and closer as he was explaining what was going on to the old man.

“You’re saying that a customer entered my shop wearing clothing of a higher quality than my own? Don’t be stupid. Clothing of that quality doesn’t exist in this world.”

A large, middle-aged man appeared before us.

“I’m sorry for keeping you all waiting. I apologize for the incompetence of my clerk — Uwaaa!?!.....Ojou-sama, you were the one that wanted clothing....!?”

The store owner, Wells, becomes stunned when he sees her clothing. However, unlike the clerk who became pale at the sight of her dress, the owner — looked up into the sky.

And there was a moment of silence.

“...I do apologize, dear customer. However, Wells’ Clothing Shop has decided to close after today.”

After Wells said this, he turned to the clerk and said, “I’m sorry, but you have been a loyal employee until now.”

“Wait a minute! Don’t you think it’s a little sudden to just close your store!?”

I quickly tried to stop the owner. I definitely didn’t intend for this to happen. I’d feel terrible if we were to cause someone to close their shop.

“Dear customers, I’m sorry but we can’t give you the clothing you desire. The clothing we make here is nowhere near the quality of the dress you’re wearing.”

“Is that so....”

Sophia seems to understand now.

Okay, it seems like it will be impossible to deceive her any longer. I’ll need to teach her the actual value of her clothing later.

“My friend told me about this shop but I’ve never seen the clothing from here.”

“Is that so.”

Sophia hangs her head apologetically and this causes the shopkeeper to panic.

“I’m sorry. It’s just that I heard that Wells’ clothing was amazing.”

“No, we are the ones at fault here. There’s no reason to apologize.”

“But.....hey, Leon onii-chan.”

Sophia looks at me with eyes full of disappointment.

Of course, I never intended on getting this shop closed. Therefore, it’s only natural that I would try to say something to them.

Still....They have pride in the clothing they make, but they are able to admit when someone has made higher quality clothing than them. This place is the best clothing shop in this world and I need some way to start selling our clothing. I wonder if we’d be a good match.

“Wells-san, do you know of the Grances territory?”

“Of course.....The Earl of Grances is in charge there and I’ve heard rumours of them creating many new technologies. You don’t mean —”

“Yes, this clothing was made in the Grances territory.”

“Well, I had heard the rumours, but not quite believed them myself.....this is quite the opportunity.”

Wells took a deep breath in.

“Do you think so? We currently are only able to produce a small amount of clothing and the price is outrageous, but if you were to make this clothing, do you think you’d be able to produce them faster?”

“No, I can tell just by seeing the quality of that clothing. It would take us five years to reach that level of craftsmanship....No, it would probably be ten years.”

“Even if we were to provide you with the technology?”

“You mean.....You mean to just give us the technology to make these dresses?”

“The technology to make the clothing, the technology to make the fabric, and the materials needed. All kinds of technology.”

“What are you....”

Wells begins to look cautious.

“I’m Leon Grances, a human that has developed these technologies.”

“.....You’re saying you are the Earl of Grances?”

“I have no way of proving that, but I’d still like you to listen to what I have to say. You really have nothing to lose by just listening.”

“What you have to say?”

“Yes. Actually —”

I gave him a quick overview of what I have planned. I opened a school, taught various technologies to the students there, and, after this year, I plan to accept students from all over the country.

“.....You teach the students these techniques at this school?”

“Yes. I could have them work as apprentices while they’re in the Grances territory, but I would also like them to become students at the school.”

“I’m sorry, but.....that story is just too impossible to believe.”

“I understand. So, please come to the Grances territory yourself. That way you can see it with your own eyes.”

“.....I will. Now, assuming everything you said is a fact, how much would it cost to enroll in this school?”

Enrollment costs? Because I planned on employing the students at a later date, I never even thought of charging money. I don’t even know what a reasonable cost would be.....

I’ll need to talk with Claire to decide on a cost later.

“When you enroll in the school there will be a certain price required at that

time,”

I then held up three fingers.

“.....Thirty gold pieces?”

Wells tentatively responded to my gesture. I shook my head in response.

“.....Of course, it must be three hundred gold coins. That makes sense. To be able to learn about such advanced technologies that much is expected.....”

A pretty somber answer. Still, it seems like he hasn't given up on the idea even at the price of three hundred gold. Of course, I'm not actually going to charge that much. I shook my head once more.

“Just three gold coins.”

“.....ha?”

“That will cover their food expenses, rent, and tuition for the year. In addition to that, there are ways to reduce the costs by having the students work during the year or after their graduation.”

I also plan on creating a scholarship program of some kind. With that in place, students would hopefully be able to completely pay off the enrollment costs in under two years. Of course, these scholarships wouldn't be for rich merchants or nobles.; they'd be exclusively for farmers.

“.....You're saying everything would be covered with just three gold coins?”

“If the student stays in school for longer than two years there will be additional costs. However, there won't be any more charges in the first year.”

“.....To be honest, I don't understand how this would be profitable for you.”

“Well, I can understand that.”

We've started producing more of the uniforms, but the price has only dropped a little.

If we include the costs of the uniforms in that three gold, we're already losing a good amount of money. Even if we don't include that, the costs of the food, rent for the dormitory, school equipment, and administrative expenses will cost almost three gold. We'd just barely stand to make a profit.

“If you don’t expect to make a profit, then what do you get out of this?”

“....Well, I’d rather not say.”

“To be honest, this all seems too good to be true. As of right now I just can’t believe you so why not tell me in order to convince me?”

He thinks I’m suspicious because it sounds too good? I didn’t expect that....Well, I don’t want to tell this to too many people, but I’m the one that started this conversation. It can’t be helped.

“I’m offering these technologies to people because I want certain people to be happy.”

“Certain people? Why?”

“No, that reason is for me.”

To live a happy life with all of my friends I’ll need a good environment. However, if I were just to improve our territory, we’d quickly make enemies of the surrounding people.

Even if we have so much money we can’t spend it all, or the technologies we have are the best in the world, we can’t be happy if we are surrounded by enemies.

That’s why all of the money we earn is going to creating support systems throughout our territory. After securing enough money to improve our territory, the rest will go to improving the surrounding areas.

It may be unfortunate, but we can’t have one without the other.

“I don’t expect you to be able to understand.”

“...No, I’ve done this work for as long as I have because the people that wear my clothing are always so happy with the clothing I provide them. I think I can understand your feelings quite well.”

....Well, that’s not exactly the same reason, but there’s no reason for me to tell him it’s different.

“Anyway, is this enough for you to be convinced?”

< Property of Fantasy-Books.live | outside of it, it is stolen.

“Yes. Please, allow my daughter to enroll in your school.”

“I’m glad to hear it.....You’ll just need to pay the enrollment fee on that day. In the meantime, please send any necessary documents to Claire Ridill in the Grances territory.”

Well, with this, I’ve secured one new student. Even though I said that I only know her family name. All of the formalities can be taken care of on the day of enrollment.

“Oh, right. Our school intends on teaching various skills in addition to crafting clothing. So if you know of anyone that would be interested in joining, will you tell them about us?”

“If that’s what you want. I will make sure to tell everyone I know about your school.”

“Thank you.”

— I casually asked for him to promote our school. At the time, I only really expected an additional five or so students. I never expected what would actually happen.....

Chapter 1-2: Footbath Maid Cafe “Alice”

A few days after returning to the Grances territory.

I enjoyed the festival in Rizelheim, it really reminded me of my previous life — By that, I’m talking about sweets.

In other words, I really want to eat some sweets right now.

I could have had Alice make some, but....I was told about a shop that was opening in Muhle. That’s why Alice and I are currently heading there.

“Wow, this town has really evolved.”

I said this as I looked out at the cityscape.

Several shops that appeared to be made of brick, but were actually made of reinforced concrete, lined the streets. There were multiple cafés, general stores, and many others.

The main street is made of cobblestone with sidewalks on either side. The sidewalks really reduce the chances of any accidents happening with carriages travelling along the main road.

There are many students walking along the sidewalks as well as many other people wearing more modern clothing. Honestly, I could easily mistake this scene as being in modern Japan.

“.....When did we start mass-producing that clothing? I thought we weren’t able to mass-produce cashmere and silk yet.”

“That’s a different version that’s made of cotton and hemp.”

“Oh, I couldn’t even tell the difference.”

Is hemp really that cheap? Maybe it’s cheap in this world, but as a natural material, it’s more of a luxury.

As I looked to the side of me, I noticed Alice was no longer walking next to me. Looking back I could see she had stopped to look at something.

“.....Alice?”

I followed her line of sight to see.....a small cafe along the side of the road. No, is she looking at the students talking in the cafe?

“Ah, sorry.”

Alice noticed me staring and quickly caught up to me.

“What’s wrong?”

“There’s nothing you need to worry about. So, where did you want to go shopping today?”

She’s just lying.....right? That’s fine though. I can guess as to what she’s thinking, but it’s probably best if I don’t force her to tell me.

“It’s this place Claire told me about. It’s a footbath cafe.”

“You really like footbaths.”

“The best feeling in winter was eating sweets with my feet under the kotatsu. I think this is as close as I can get to that in this world.”

Sadly, there are no kotatsus in this world, but a footbath should be close enough.

“Isn’t it kind of embarrassing to take your shoes and socks off in public and soak your feet in water?”

“You think so? Is it that embarrassing when everyone else is doing it?”

I remember when we were busy first building the city. When everyone was tired from work Claire, Sophia, Alice, and everyone else would all soak their feet in the footbath and talk.

“In this world, it isn’t uncommon for men and women to bathe with one another, but it doesn’t seem to be common among the nobility. Still, I think I don’t mind as much when it’s everyone doing it.”

“Hmm, then Alice really is just embarrassed....”

That would be nice to see.

I really wanted to go to the footbath cafe, but seeing Alice like this, I guess there’s no choice. But then, Alice let out a big sigh.

“.....It can't be helped. This is a special occasion, okay? I don't want any other men there either.”

Alice looks cute with her cheeks dyed red.

My heart started beating faster when she said this is a special occasion. I began walking ahead in order to clear my mind.

The footbath cafe soon came into view. For some reason, the person working at the front was wearing a maid outfit. She greeted us with a, “Welcome home, Master and Lady.”

It is a maid cafe!

This is a real life footbath maid cafe.

By the way, each room was sectioned off with walls and a door. Alice looked completely relaxed as she soaked her feet in the footbath.

And she was so against coming here too.

“Wafu~.....The footbath feels amazing.....”

“So, what happened to being embarrassed?”

“Hn~? I'm a little embarrassed even now.”

“How are you at all embarrassed?”

“Well, even though this is a footbath, it's still a bath.”

“That's true, but you're wearing your clothes still.”

I have to either roll up my pant legs or take them off altogether. Alice is wearing a miniskirt so she only needs to remove her knee socks and shoes. I don't know why she would be embarrassed.

“Even if I'm wearing my clothing, this is similar to a mixed bath. It makes me feel relaxed and vulnerable so it's a bit embarrassing.”

“Hmm....”

When she puts it like that, going to a footbath together seems a little immoral. Rather, seeing Alice's face get dyed red from the hot water is a little sexy.

On top of that, her well-developed chest is pressed up against the table when she leans forward. They change shape every time she moves.

.....I'm feeling embarrassed just looking at her.

"Still, if Leon gets excited seeing me like this, maybe it isn't so bad."

— She saw straight through mmmeeeee! Damn, I was once again played by Alice.....It's so frustrating.

"Fufu~, Leon is still a child."

I'm already past puberty at this point. And whose fault do you think it is that I'm so conscious of a woman's body? Of course, I can't say that to her.

By the way, saying I'm just now conscious of women isn't entirely accurate. Ever since I was born I had the mind of a teenager.

However, before this body hit puberty, I never really thought of women in that way. But now, my head becomes hot whenever I think about a woman's body.....

I might need to give Alice an answer soon, but — As I was thinking this, I heard a familiar voice nearby.

"He~y, Aisha. Stop playing around so much; you're annoying the other customers."

"But Senpai, this is a maid cafe, right? We can experience a world normal citizens like us would never get to live."

"True, but.....I've been to Leon-sama's mansion a few times."

"Ku~I'm so envious of you. All of the seniors are so sneaky."

I didn't recognize the girl named Aisha's voice, but I did recognize the senior's voice.

I looked over the low wall in the direction of the voice. As expected, I could see Lyanna standing there.

"Hey, Lyanna. It's strange seeing you in a place like this."

After completing her second year at the school, Lyanna was now teaching there.

She's seventeen years old this year. Although she was already cute when she entered the school, she's now more mature and even cuter.

I've also been told by Claire that she has been confessed to by several of the boys that have entered the school — It must be hard for her.

"Huh? I didn't know you were back in Muhle."

"Ah, yeah we returned a few days ago. How have you been, Lyanna?"

"I'm fine."

"— Senpai, se-n-pa-i~ Who is this obnoxious boy?"

The girl named Aisha hits the top of my head. Lyanna's face turned pale after witnessing this. Aisha didn't notice and looked at my face.

Seeing her this close.....she's maybe a year younger than Lyanna. She has unique green hair and brown eyes. She's definitely a lively girl with short hair.

She's calling Lyanna 'Senpai' so she must be one of the third-years. It's not surprising she doesn't recognize me as I haven't been to the school lately.

I only ever attended the third-years graduation. If she even saw me there, she probably thought I was a student like her.

"Fumufumu. Your face is pretty good, but even if you stare at Lyanna senpai like that, you'll never steal her heart."

She's the type of girl that says whatever she wants.

Well, if Aisha is Lyanna's junior, she's actually older than me.

"Why are you staying silent? Did I hit the mark? Now you're just speechless *uri uri*"

Stop pinching my cheeks — this feels like a scene out of a romantic comedy.

"A-Aisha stop! That person is —"

".....What's wrong?"

Lyanna was about to reveal my identity before she suddenly stopped.

Aisha had looked back towards Lyanna and I was now holding my finger to my lips in order to keep her silent.

For a certain reason, I was waiting until most students that knew Alice was associated with me had graduated.

I wouldn't really mind if Aisha found out, but there are currently many other students around us that are taking notice of our conversation.

As of now, all the students that knew of Alice have already graduated. I'd rather not let all of the new students here see her with me.

"This boy is.....umm....."

"My name is Leo. Lyanna helped me out the other day when I was in trouble."

"Th-That's right. I helped Leo-kun. Fueh!? I helped you!?"

"Eh, didn't you?"

"I felt like it was the opposite...."

"What are you talking about? Of course, Lyanna was the one that helped me."

"I-I guess so."

Well, it is true that Lyanna helped me solve the food shortage in the territory. So, I'm not lying when I say she helped me.

"Hee~, so that's how it is. So, Leo-kun likes Lyanna senpai?"

"Well, I wonder if it's something like that."

"Fueeh!? Leo-sa — kun likes me?"

Lyanna started to panic and almost used the proper honorific.

"I see. Well, I'll do my best to support you, but Lyanna senpai likes the Earl of this territory. I'm not sure if that's a hurdle you'll be able to get over."

"Aaaissshaaa!! Wh-Wh-Wh-What are you saying!?"

"Well, it is the truth. Lyanna senpai if you don't tell him now, this kid will just get hurt later on."

"That's not the point! Well, that is true, but it isn't true!"

"Umm.....which one is it?"

.....Anyway, Aisha seems to be worried about me liking Lyanna. She's a little

brash but I think she's a good person.

What she said about Lyanna.....Right, I must have misheard her. I'm sure Lyanna is feeling embarrassed, I'll give her a chance to clear things up.

"That's the first I've heard about you liking Lord Leon."

"Fueh!? W-Well, that's because Aisha said something."

"Of course, she was lying, right? There's no reason that you'd like Lord Leon."

"Of course there is! He's amazing and so gentle. He's also determined and that's why Leon-sama is for me — "

".....For me?"

"I-It's nothing!"

Lyanna's entire face was now bright red and she started staring down at the floor.

.....Eh? Wasn't she supposed to clear things up? But, seeing Lyanna panicking like this is also nice.

It's a rare sight to see her acting like this so I kind of want to see more of this.

But, I can't do that to her. I'll try to change the subject.

"Lyanna, I'm sorry to keep you. You came here to have some sweets with your friend, right?"

< Property of Fantasy-Books.live | outside of it, it is stolen.

"Ah, t-that's right. Then, Aisha let's find a seat!"

"Eh, but, I want to sit here and talk with Leo-kun more."

"Just-come-on-already! Let's go!"

"Wai-, Senpai!? Don't push me! Stop pushing!"

"Then, Leo-kun, I'll see you some other time!"

In other words, Lyanna pushed Aisha to another table some ways away from us. I waved goodbye to them and went back into the private room.

— And my eyes were met with Alice's cold stare.

Chapter 1-3: Noblesse Oblige

I'm currently sitting at a table in a footbath maid cafe. I gave a quick greeting to Lyanna, who I just happened to meet by chance, and was now being stared at by Alice.

"What...what's wrong?"

"Cheater...Leon is seducing other girls right in front of me. I feel like you're having an affair."

"Wai-! Don't just say such terrible things about people!"

I just wanted to tease Lyanna a bit, but I didn't mean anything like that.

Does she have to go as far as saying I'm having an affair? It's not like Alice and I are actually dating — Using that as an excuse would probably end badly for me.

I don't know why she's acting like this with Lyanna. If I were to do this to Claire or Sophia, she'd probably encourage it. Either way, there's no way I'm cheating by just talking to another girl.

"Hey, Leon. Lyanna-chan isn't your older or younger sister."

"Well, that's true, but.....why does that matter?"

"You're definitely cheating if you put your hands on any girl that isn't your sister."

"What's with those standards!?"

I don't understand her at all. Even if she were just talking about a sister-in-law, saying that is just strange — Rather, it would be normal to say the exact opposite.

"So are you saying if Lyanna becomes my sister-in-law it would be okay to put my hands on her?"

"Eh? Is that what you're planning to do?"

".....That's just strange. Your standards are so strange."

“Hey, Leon? Have you heard of the term noblesse oblige?”

“I’ve heard of it, but.....”

It means something like people born into a higher status have certain obligations in life.

In the case of the nobility, they were supposed to adopt talented individuals and encourage that individual’s growth.

“If you understand that, then don’t you agree? As a noble, you have a duty to add a girl that is a commoner to your harem. So, you need to find a way to make that girl your sister-in-law.”

“There’s no way that’s what noblesse oblige means!”

Is Alice still trying to convince me it’s okay to be with her even though she’s my sister from my previous life?

I no longer have any intention of denying Alice, so that’s really unnecessary.....There’s no way I’m telling her that. I don’t know what she’d do if she knew that.

— Then, the maid came in carrying our orders on a tray. I’m more than happy to end this conversation here.

“Master, Lady, I’m sorry for keeping you waiting. Here’s your strawberry shortcake and milk tea.”

Oh, no matter how you look at this place, it is a maid cafe. It’s the exact same as a maid cafe in modern Japan....

Huh? Now that I think about it, it’s a bit strange for there to be a maid cafe in a different world. There were no cafes in this world before this town was built.

Now, there’s suddenly a maid cafe. Alice is definitely involved in this.

“Is this what you ordered?”

“—Ah, yeah.”

“Then, please enjoy.”

The maid bowed to us and turned to leave.

“Hey, Alice. Is this maid cafe.....”

“Did you not see the name on the cafe? The name is Footbath Maid Cafe
“Alice.””

“As I thought — eh? Your name is on the shop? Are you the owner?”

“Yep, I’m the owner. So, today is my treat.”

“Ah, okay. Thank you...why did you create a maid cafe in this world?”

“Because Claire wanted a cafe from our world, so I thought a maid cafe would be fitting...were you surprised?”

Saying I was surprised would be putting it lightly...no, that’s not entirely true. This town has developed at such a rapid pace, that seeing a maid cafe isn’t so shocking to me.

“I thought that you would like a maid cafe. Do you not like it?”

“I like the idea of a footbath cafe, but I’ve gotten used to seeing maids.”

A maid cafe is made for people that have fantasies of having maids wait on them. Now that I’ve been living in this world for a while, I’ve gotten used to seeing maids all the time where I live.

“So, does that mean a school uniform cafe would be better?”

“I already see plenty of school uniforms at school.”

— That’s not to say I created the school for that specific purpose.

“Would it be better if they were wearing outfits designed to fit Leon’s tastes?”

“My tastes? You’re the one designing the outfits.”

“But you were the one that told me to start making clothing.”

“.....”

“What could they wear that you’d like.....Oh, right what about a kimono? Or maybe a school swimsuit?”

Alice starts listing various outfits and I do my best to avoid making eye contact with her. I can feel a bead of sweat roll down my cheek.

“I wasn’t complaining about the maid outfits, so can you stop exposing my interests to everyone?”

Honestly, how does she even know about all of that? She was hospitalized for so long. She shouldn’t have ever had the opportunity to learn about those things.

I was still somewhat concerned about this as I started eating the cake. The sweet cream from the cake spread throughout my mouth.

Clearly, this cake is absolutely delicious. I can attest to this because I’ve been reincarnated; the quality of the cake is probably on par with a modern Japanese shop.

“Leon, how does it taste? I came up with all of the recipes here.”

“It’s delicious. Alice, you’re really doing many different things lately.”

I knew she was setting up her Alice brand clothing, but I didn’t know anything about her managing this cafe.

Will this city soon be filled with Alice brand shops?

“Claire just wanted my help with this.”

“Are you helping her because you feel like you owe her?”

If it wasn’t for Claire, Alice would have been sold into slavery.

So I asked her this, but Alice just shook her head and smiled.

“It’s because she’s my friend. Claire is my best friend in this world.”

“I see. Well, that’s fine. As long as it is what you want to do, you can do whatever you want to, Alice.”

“Thank you, but I’m fine. I’ve decided I want to continue improving this town with you, Leon. I haven’t had to do anything I don’t want to.”

Alice didn’t seem to be lying.

But, I could still remember seeing her look envious when she looked at the students talking to one another at that cafe.

After all, Alice is the reincarnation of Saya — I’m sure she still wants to attend

school.

I think she could be a little more selfish.

Even if Alice won't say anything, I already know how she really feels. By the way, I've secretly put plans into motion to get Alice enrolled in the school as a student.

For the past two years, I've kept Alice away from the school. The only student there that knows who she is, is Sophia.

Now, Alice can live an ordinary life as an ordinary student. She can live as a regular student, something that she was never able to do in her previous life.

Now, I just need to talk with Claire so we can go through the enrollment procedures.

Chapter 1-4: Claire Sees Through Me

Two weeks passed and it was now the end of January.

I was now heading to Claire's office to talk with her. Originally this room was created for me, but now it had become Claire's office in name and in use.

When I entered her office, Tina welcomed me.

"Hey, Tina. Are you doing well? Claire isn't overworking you?"

"Leon-sama, hello. I'm always so busy, but Claire is nice to me."

"That's good to hear. Just make sure Claire doesn't take advantage of you."

"— You know I can hear you, right?"

I could hear Claire's voice coming from the back of the room. I headed in that direction with a wry smile on my face.

"Welcome, otouto-kun. What did you need today?"

There were many papers stacked on her desk. I know she wants to challenge herself, but I'm worried she may be overdoing it.

Although Claire is acting as the head of the family, she will only be turning sixteen at the end of this year....Well, I can't really say anything about that considering I passed on the role of head of the family to her.

"...otouto-kun?"

"Ah, sorry. I was just overwhelmed by all of these papers."

"Oh, that's the list of applicants that wish to enter Muhle Academy next term."

".....Eh? All of this?"

That's impossible. If you were to bind them all together, they would be thicker than a dictionary.

"There are applicants from the nobles of Rizelheim that want their farmers to enrol here. In total, there are 400 applicants. There are also many merchants

that wish to send their children here. That will add on another 100 applicants.

“So 500 people in total.....Can we accept that many?”

We can use graduates as teachers, so we should have plenty of teachers. However, the land we use for practical training and the dorms we have for the students can't hold that many people. As I thought, 500 is just too many.

“If we really tried, we could maybe accept 450. However, we have to accept the set amount of students from the Marquis of Gramp, so we can only accept 300 students from outside our territory.”

“We need to immediately cut 200 of the 500 people.....Even if we were to accept them next year, I bet they'd be displeased.”

“No, we need to cut 200 of the applicants from 400. We have to accept the 100 children from the merchants.”

“We can't cut them at all.....? Shouldn't it just be a first come first served basis?”

Forcing the children of the merchants to wait a year may be hard for them to accept, but I feel like that can't be helped; there were people that applied before them. After I said that, Claire just stared at me.

“It's your fault, otouto-kun.”

“.....Eh?”

“The majority of the applicants came from Wells advertising in the capital. You did tell him to do that, right?”

Ah~, I did tell him something like that when I was in Rizelheim.

Did he really recruit 100 people? Then, I certainly can't refuse them. Well, I could, but it would probably be better if I didn't.

“Is it okay to cut the number of applicants from the nobles by half?”

“I don't think it's okay. Right now, we're negotiating with each noble and we will send some of our graduates to each territory so we don't have to reduce the total number of students.”

“.....I'm sorry.”

I apologized to Claire and started looking through the list. The list was sorted by the names of the lords from the country and among them was the Rodwell family.

Of course, I don't mind being involved with the Rodwell family, but I don't really want to offer the Rodwell family any technology directly. When I made the deal with the Marquis of Gramp, his people only enrolled as students at our school.

Anyway.

Claire already seemed really busy. All I did was increase her workload by getting more students to enrol here....

There's no way I can ask her to help me with Alice.

.....It can't be helped. I'll just have to talk with her about it another day.

"Claire, is there anything I can do to help?"

"Hm? Thanks, but I'm okay for now."

"Alright.....Then, tell me if there is anything I can ever do for you."

I say this and turn to leave her office.

"Ah, wait otouto-kun. Didn't you need something from me?"

"No, you don't need to worry about it."

"Hm~? Ah, is it like that?"

What is she saying? Claire stopped working, stood up from her desk, and walked over to me — she then wrapped her arms around my neck.

I had no time to resist — she pulled me close to her.

"....."

She pulled my neck down towards her, causing me to lose my balance — I tried to catch myself but lost my footing.

There was nothing else I could do and we both fell to the ground. Claire landed on top of me.

"What are you doing? That's dangerous."

“I-I should be asking you what you were doing, Claire!”

I tried to quickly move away from her but her body was pressed up against me.

Claire will be 16 this year and she’s growing a lot. This is bad. The feeling of Claire’s chest pressed up against me is too much.

“Hya~n.....H-hey, don’t move around so much.”

The moment I tried to move away from her, Claire let out a slight moan. And so, I was unable to move.

“Cl-Claire?”

“Fufu~, did you think I wouldn’t notice. Otouto-kun is so cute.”

“No...umm, what are you saying?”

“You clearly had something you wanted to ask me. Please, tell me already.”

“N-No, I don’t think I can ask you in this situation.”

“I wonder what you mean by that. Is it because we’re so close? Or is it because you’re starting to think of me as a woman?”

“It’s both! This is embarrassing, so please let me go already!”

I could easily push her off, but I don’t want to do that to Claire. Or maybe it’s because of this sweet smell and soft feeling that I don’t want to.

“Okay...if I tell you, will you release me?”

“...I understand. I’ll let you go, so tell me already.”

Claire finally released me, but...does she look a little lonely?

No, no, no. It’s just my imagination.

“Otouto-kun? Why are you making such a strange face?”

“It’s nothing!”

“Is that so?”

“Don’t worry about it. More importantly, is this really a good time to ask you for something?”

“It’s a request from my dear otouto-kun. It will take priority over everything else.”

“I’m glad to hear that....”

I really don’t want to ask anything unreasonable of her when she seems so busy.

“I can tell something is bothering you. I certainly am busy, but I’m not so busy that I’d choose to ignore you. After all, I’m trying my hardest for you.”

“Claire....”

Oh, I wonder what this feeling is. Claire is only about half my age when I add the years from my previous life, but I feel like I can rely on her entirely.

I feel like I depend on her too much....

Anyway, I ended up talking with her about enrolling Alice in school.

“You want Alice to become a student at the school?”

“Yeah. Do you think that will be a problem?”

“No, it shouldn’t be too hard. I just don’t understand why you want her to do that. It’s not like she needs to take any classes.”

“Just because I want her to become a student, doesn’t mean I want her to study.”

“What do you mean?”

“You know that Alice and I have memories from our previous lives, right?”

I told her about how Alice, when she was Saya, always wanted to attend school.

“So, otouto-kun wants to grant her wish from her previous life...and only Alice will be going to school, not you?”

“...I won’t be.”

To be honest, school life with Alice sounds really fun.

However, I am the Earl of Grances. No matter how hard I try, it would be impossible for me to completely hide my identity while attending school.

If I were to be with her, Alice would not be able to enjoy school life as a normal girl. That's why I'm choosing not to go so I can support Alice.

".....Well, if that's what you've decided I'm not going to interfere."

"What is that supposed to mean?"

"Nothing~ I thought otouto-kun knew everything, but you clearly don't understand the heart of a woman. I'm sure you'll hear the line, 'Leon is insensitive,' sometime soon."

"What are you trying to say!?"

What? What am I missing?

"A-Anyway, will you make the preparations so she can enrol in the school?"

"Of course, I will. I'll get everything ready so she can attend school."

"Thank you, Claire."

I can't wait to tell Alice...though, I'd like to be able to surprise her...the graduation party for the fourth term students will be held soon.

We can attend that together and I can surprise her there.

Chapter 1-5: Looks of a Girl, Heart of a Woman

We were now in the middle of February. It was now a certain day before the fourth term students' graduation party.

I was soaking my feet in the footbath in the mansion when someone hugged me from behind.

"Guess who it is~?"

The girl that is hugging me is small, but her chest that's pressing against my back is unfitting of her small frame.

This has to be —

"That voice...Sophia."

"Ehehe~ yep!"

Sophia walks around and sits down next to me while putting her feet into the footbath.

"It's so warm. Soaking in a footbath during the winter is the best."

"Right? It's amazing."

"Yep, soaking my feet in here on a chilly day with some ice cream would be amazing."

"Sophia, do you want some ice cream?"

I'd personally like a mandarin orange, but the oranges in this world aren't that sweet. That's why I'd like to get Sophia what she wants.

...hmm, maybe I should try to create some delicious oranges next? Though, creating an orange that's as delicious as a mandarin orange would be difficult. Maybe I should first try to find the most delicious orange in this world.

As I was thinking about this, Sophia grabbed onto one of my arms.

"What are you thinking about, Leon onii-chan?"

"I want to eat delicious oranges while soaking my feet in the bath."

“Oranges, huh...Alice onee-chan was saying the same thing.”

“In the world we were originally from, it was common to eat oranges with your feet under the kotatsu.”

By the way, Sophia now knows about our past lives. We told Claire and we didn't see any reason to hide it from Sophia.

And so, we also told Milli and Michelle.

To be honest, I expected them to be more surprised. Everyone seemed to think it made sense considering all the knowledge that we had.

“The kotatsu...that's something like a heated blanket, right?”

“It's similar. The feeling is almost like a footbath, but you can enjoy the warmth of a kotatsu while lying down.”

I personally prefer a kotatsu...well, if I were to come up with some sort of shallow bath that I could lie down in...no, I'd be too afraid of drowning. Let's stop thinking about it.

“Sophia, are you interested in a kotatsu?”

“No, I love the feeling of the footbath.”

“Really? I don't think anything compares to the feeling of a kotatsu.”

“But I wouldn't be able to bathe together with Leon onii-chan using a kotatsu.”

“...bathe together? Did you learn that from Alice?”

“Yep. She told me that it's the perfect time to seduce you because your guard is lowered.”

...she even said that. What is that girl teaching the pure Sophia?

“I'm going to tell you this now, everything Alice says isn't right.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. She was talking about mixed bathing but we only have our feet in the bath.”

“But earlier, when Sophia hugged you from behind, Leon onii-chan enjoyed

the feeling of my chest, right?”

“Buh!?”

Due to her surprise attack, I wasn’t able to prepare myself for that feeling. That’s probably why she noticed. I’ve noticed that recently, Sophia has been able to use her ability more and more effectively.

Considering everything Alice has been teaching her, that is a terrible combination. It would be impossible for me to deceive Sophia when she does something like this.

“Ah~, sorry. I just didn’t realize how much you’ve grown.”

“Ehehe~ It’s embarrassing, but if it’s Leon onii-chan, I’m okay with you liking it.”

“Hey, girls shouldn’t be saying that!”

“It’s because I’m a girl that I can say that.”

“That’s true, but that’s not what I meant!”

“Sophia will be twelve-years-old this year. It’s possible for us to get married now, Leon onii-chan. I hope you’ll think about that.”

“E-Even if you say that....”

In my opinion, Sophia’s chest is about equal to that of a girl in her late teens.Well, in this world, you’re considered to be an adult at around age twelve, so she is around the age to be thinking about stuff like marriage.

“Sophia is learning a lot from Alice onee-chan and Milli okaa-san. I’m trying my best every day.”

“Trying your best?”

“”Yeah. Like the other day, I learned to tie a cherry stem with my tongue.”

“What is that idiot Alice teaching you!?”

“No, it was Milli okaa-san that taught me that.”

“Milli did!?”

What was she thinking? Why would she teach Sophia something like that?

Well, if she's teaching her that then there is only one thing...uwaa I don't want to think about Milli talking about things like that with Sophia.

"Alice onee-chan told me that, because I'm so shy, that if I were to know this technique it would be 100x more effective on onii-chan."

That girl — what is she teaching the innocent Sophia!?

Anyway.

Sophia looks rather young for her age. She's also rather short, but her chest is growing at an accelerated rate.

Such a young and pure Sophia...yet, she's already mastered such a mature technique...*Gulp*

— Wait, why am I gulping!? I shouldn't be thinking about stuff like that!

"Ehehe~ Leon onii-chan is thinking about doing ecchi things with Sophia."

"Gyaaaaa! Don't read someone else's feelings without permission!"

Due to her ability, Sophia seems like she may be my most formidable opponent.

"F-For now, we can hold off on talking about it. Even if you say you're going to be twelve, your birthday isn't until December. That's nearly ten months away."

Obviously, I have several reasons for trying to hold off these talks.

Even though twelve is a marriageable age in this world, I still have the mind of a Japanese man. My mind is still resistant to marrying someone of that age.

So, I wanted to postpone talking about that until Sophia is as old as possible. I'm not trying to postpone to avoid answering or because I would tell her no.

— Yes. I'm beginning to realize I have feelings for Sophia as well.

At first, I thought it was brave of me to choose only one person. No, I feel that way even now. However, if it is courageous to choose one person, then isn't it even more courageous to choose three?

...Alice has really corrupted my way of thinking.

Still, the feelings I have for Claire and Sophia are a little different from the

feelings I have for Alice, but they are still real.

And that's why I want to wait until Sophia is older.

Though, it might be bad if Sophia can read my true feelings.

"Oh yeah, Sophia, is school fun?"

"It's really fulfilling. I've made a lot of close friends."

"Is that so?"

"I accidentally called Lyanna 'onee-chan' in front of everyone, so everyone knows I've been in school for a while now."

"Eh, are you being bullied....?"

"Bullied? No, they treat me almost like I'm on the same level as the teachers."

"Ah, that's what you meant...."

Honestly, Sophia probably has as much knowledge as the teachers. She's probably younger than the rest of the students, so I'm sure they think she's quite amazing.

It's good that she isn't being bullied, but it is a little sad that she's not treated equally among the rest of the students.

It would be nice if Alice joining the school caused a change in the environment.

Chapter 1-6: It Seems Everyone Sees Through Me

Everything is ready for Alice to join the school. All that's left is for me to surprise her at the fourth term students' graduation party.

I've been trying to avoid showing my face at the school but I'll have to in order to attend the party. As long as I just appear to be a graduate, it should be fine for the students to see Alice and me together.

Well, the Marquis of Gramp will also be attending, so it's not like I could avoid attending anyway.

That's why, as I was looking for Alice at the party, I was found by the Marquis of Gramp.

"It's been a while, Leon. Has it been since last year's graduation party?"

"That sounds about right. How have you been lately?"

"Because of the technologies you've provided, we no longer have to deal with any food shortages. In fact, this year we even have a surplus of food. I'm even able to sleep peacefully at night thanks to everything you've done."

"You're exaggerating, but I'm glad that everything seems to have worked out for you and your people, Marquis of Gramp."

"Oi, didn't I tell you just Crane is fine?"

"Then...Crane."

"I call you Leon even though I'm so indebted to you. It makes me feel a little uncomfortable for you to still use titles. Though, our difference in age is quite a lot. I don't know if dropping my title makes you feel uncomfortable."

"Well, it is a bit strange. You certainly are older, but I feel like we've become a lot closer. Moreover, I don't want to act ignorant to my surroundings."

"Ha, that sounds like something you'd say."

The Marquis' problems were solved with the technology we provided. The public believes that the Marquis is offering support to us in order to create this

technology.

Crane's political power has gone up due to this. Though, I don't know if he has gotten big headed with this newfound political standing.

"That's right, Leon, I had a favour to ask of you."

— Maybe he doesn't think that way.

"What is it? As long as it doesn't involve Claire, I'll listen."

"Hmm, that's rather disappointing. If I knew you were so talented I may have tried to partner up with you earlier."

"Even if you try to flatter me I won't change my mind on that."

"I'm just joking. I didn't mean to make you angry. I just wanted to see if it was possible for you to accept more students from my territory next term."

"I think we could manage somehow if I talk with Claire, but.....Why bother asking me about this?"

I think we're already accepting enough of his people as it is, but it's not like we ever decided on a maximum number of his people we would take every term. But it seems that the prospective student he is talking about aren't commoners from his territory but it is the daughter of one of his acquaintances.

"If that's the case, I'll talk with Claire about it."

Even though I was off to the side of the main party it wasn't hard to find Claire. I could see her at the centre of the party, surrounded by a large group of people.

Who's around her...they look like nobles and other authority figures from the surrounding districts. We'll be receiving their students next term but I wonder why they're at this graduation party.

"—Hmm?"

I think Claire just noticed me — She bowed to the surrounding people and quickly walked over to me. She grabbed my arm and started walking away from the party.

"C-Claire?"

“Come with me right now.”

“E-Eh?”

I didn't really understand what was happening, but I followed after her anyway. She took me to a corner of the room, far away from the rest of the party.

“Now then, otouto-kun, did you have something you wanted to tell me?”

“I do, but...is everything okay?”

“Everything is fine. Those people were trying to convince me to marry into their family.”

I see. So, she used me as an excuse to get away from them.

“But, is it really okay to just leave them all like that? They're all nobility or high ranking officials. Wouldn't it be a good idea to build some close relationships with them?”

“It's fine. I've already spoken with anybody that we may find useful. Especially those that spoke well of you; I remember their faces and names clearly.”

“Claire.....”

How important is it to her that these people like the person she likes?

“I'm in charge of the Grances territory, but that is only to a certain extent. Otouto-kun, you are the face of the Grances family. Anyone that doesn't respect you, or doesn't have any connections we can use, isn't worth my time.”

“A-Ah~, I see. That makes sense.”

T-That was close. It's nice to hear, but doesn't Claire like me too much —

“Fufu~, I bet you're wondering how much I must love you if I'm willing to ignore people just because they don't like you.”

I've been exposed!!.

N-No, wait. I need to calm down. Claire doesn't have the ability to read my feelings like Sophia. I should be able to deceive if her if I just act dumb.

“Why would I be thinking that?”

“It’s written all over your face.”

It’s useless.

“Just kidding. I knew you’d misunderstand my words and be thinking about that.”

Once again, she was just messing with me.

Damn it. After all, Claire is also a tough opponent. I used to think she was cute when she did this.

Now I feel like, even though I have the experience from my previous life, this teenage girl can still manipulate me so easily.

“So, otouto-kun, what business did you have with your onee-chan? You’ll be attending school soon. Have you prepared yourself?”

“Eh? Didn’t I tell you I wouldn’t be going to school.”

“..oh, otouto-kun, have you still not talked with Alice?”

“I haven’t yet....”

“Well, if you’re willing to go, we can add one or two new students at any time.”

“Oh, sure. Ah, that reminds me.”

“Hmm?”

When did I start to feel this way about Claire? Her long, platinum blonde hair hung loosely past her shoulders and her sweet smell filled my nose.

Claire will be sixteen-years-old this year. She’s become much more mature over the years and, because of that, she’s become more beautiful and popular. It makes sense that there would be so many people trying to arrange a marriage with her.

When I first met her, I just didn’t want her to be forced into a marriage she didn’t want, but now I feel different. I don’t want anyone else to have her.

...wait, what am I even thinking about now? I don’t want to hand her over to anyone? When did I become such a siskon? Uwaa, I want to erase my memories of the last several seconds.

“...Otouto-kun?”

“Ha!? A-Ah, it’s nothing.”

“Nothing...wasn’t there something about accepting more students?”

“You’re right!”

“...I am?”

“There was something I wanted to talk about. To tell you the truth, a little while ago –”

I told Claire that Crane wanted to enrol another student here.

“Hee~...so, it’s the daughter of someone he knows?”

“Yes.”

“That does worry me a little. I feel like Crane will be able to gain even more power and influence.”

“Even back when we spoke with him about Patrick, I felt like he’s all about business.”

“Then, it was probably hard for him to ask you for a favour.”

I wonder. He didn’t really appear to be hesitant when he asked me.

“Well, disregarding what happened with Patrick — If you were to ask Crane for the same thing, he’d listen. Don’t you think so?”

“Well...this is just what I think, but considering how much we’ve given him, it would only make sense that he’d at least consider it.”

“I see....”

The Marquis of Gramp does owe us a great deal.

“Well, there is another possibility.”

“Really?”

“Either the girl herself or her sisters, if she has any, could be young and pretty.”

“Ah....”

I was suspicious that Crane was a lolicon.

No, it wasn't just a suspicion. For instance, I would never feel safe leaving Sophia in the same room as him.

"Whatever the case, it seems interesting. I'll look into it some later."

"...interesting? I guess so."

Chapter 1-7: Pre-Established Harmony, Again

I told Claire about Crane's request and she went off to find him.

I began looking for Alice again. After walking around the party for a while, I finally found her sitting at a corner table with Sophia.

"Are you two having fun?"

"Ah, Leon onii-chan. I'm talking with Alice onee-chan about a new type of cake."

"A new cake?"

"It's the Mille crepe. Sophia came up with it herself."

"Hee.....That's amazing."

A cake that exists on earth but she came up with it on her own.

I used to think Sophia was average like me, but it seems she's joined the other geniuses, Alice and Claire.

"So, what are you doing Leon onii-chan?"

"I had something I needed to tell Alice but it can wait until later."

"Something to tell Alice onee-chan? If that's the case I can leave. I've finished telling her about my new cake idea."

"Really?"

"Yeah. You can have my seat."

As soon as Sophia tried to leave I grabbed onto her hand.

"You can stay, Sophia. Rather, what I need to tell Alice also has something to do with you."

"Is that so?"

"Yeah. It actually involves the school."

I then turned my eyes to Alice.

I'm afraid Alice might know what I'm going to say after mentioning 'school,' but it doesn't seem so. She just blankly stared at me with her large blue eyes.

"Leon, why would you need to talk with me about the school?"

"This is what I mean."

I hand her a package I had prepared earlier. The uniform she had only tried on once was in the package. Since then, it had been put away in a dresser.

"This is.....my uniform?.....Maybe you want me to do something perverted in my uniform?"

"Please be serious!"

Her way of thinking is as strange as usual.

As for Sophia....Please stop teaching her such strange things. There's only one person that would teach her these things.....and that person is clearly Alice.

Sophia killed her father and fell into darkness. She was saved when I brought her together with Alice, but...to be honest, I'm not sure if that was the best idea.

I'm really concerned.

"So, Leon? Why did you bring my uniform?"

"Right. You said you wanted to attend school before, so I made arrangements for you to attend class this year."

I said it without any hesitation. Due to what I said earlier, the surprise has been spoiled.

"...you remembered that I wanted to go to school? I thought you forgot about that."

"I never forgot about it. I thought you'd like to go to school as a normal girl. That's why I waited until most of the students that knew you had already graduated."

"That's true...thank you, Leon. I'm really...I'm really happy."

I wondered how happy she'd be. I could see tears spilling out of her large eyes.

I thought she'd be happy, but after seeing this, I'd say it was worth all of the effort put into getting this done.

"Alice onee-chan, are you joining our school?"

"Yes, Sophia."

"Really!? Yay! That means, from April on, the three of us can spend time together in school!"

"Yep!"

The two of them look so excited, but.....

"Who's the third? Alice, Sophia, and who else?"

— Somehow, I feel like the temperature of the room just dropped.

".....Hey, Leon. I'm just checking, but you'll also be going to school too, right?"

"No, I won't be going. Just you...."

After hearing my words, Alice's eyes narrowed.

"Before I get angry, can you tell me why?"

"Eh, you mean you're going to get angry no matter what?"

"Don't tell me due to a mysterious illness you can't attend school."

What!?!...no, there must be a deeper meaning to her words. I'll just reassure her first.

"I'm fine, I'm not sick. It's just that if I go with you, the other students will probably know who I am. If that happens, you can't attend school as a normal girl."

"Ah, so that's what you meant. Thank you for being so considerate. Thank you. I'm so happy — I don't even know what to say to this Bakarion!" (TN: Bakarion is just 'Stupid Leon' but it fits better with the next lines if I leave it as is.) Bakarion!?"

When did I become a robot!? — Wait, that's not what I need to be thinking about! Why is Alice calling me stupid!? I'm so confused!

"Umm.....Why exactly are you so angry?"

“Maybe it has something to do with me going without you? Do you have anything else to say?”

“I can’t go with you...It’s not like we won’t see each other. We can see each other every day when you get back from school.”

“No.”

Uwaa, that was so cold! How can her smile be so terrifying!? What’s with this power!? I’m honestly terrified!

“Hey, Leon. I put my uniform away in the back of my dresser. Why do you have it?”

“Well...I wanted to surprise you so I asked Milli to get it for me.”

“In other words, you were rifling through my dresser?”

“No, no I asked Milli to do it so I didn’t see anything myself!”

“But you ordered Milli to do it, right? So that means, Leon went searching through my clothes and panties to find my uniform.”

“Wha—!?”

“...isn’t that true?”

Another smile but her eyes aren’t smiling at all. A single bead of sweat rolled down my cheek.

“Hey, Leon? Are you a pervert that steals a girl’s panties and deserves punishment? Or did you just do that so you could surprise me and go to school with me?”

“Of course! The only reason I got your uniform was so I could go to school with you!”

I gave an immediate response.

What other answer could I give? The only other option was terrible. I had to give in. It was the only way I could survive!

And so, I decided to go to school with Alice.

...well, I was a little reluctant, but I wasn’t about to tell Alice no.

I won't complain about it if that is what she really wants. I'll do my best to support Alice so we can live a happy school life together.

Chapter 2-1: Entrance Ceremony

A large building located on the grounds of the school. In a grand hall that wouldn't be possible to construct in this world. There are currently four hundred and ten people that will be new students of Muhle Academy starting this term.

However, since I really didn't expect to have so many students, we were not able to gather enough chairs for everyone. After all, the first year we only had seventeen students and the second year it only increased to thirty students. It increased to sixty from there, then 100, and now it's over 450 students in total.

I'm sorry everyone but you'll have to stay standing for this.

By the way, almost all of the fifth term students will be enrolling as normal students straight away. There's no need for them to go through any preparatory courses. That's not to say that the literacy rate of commoners is near 100%.

Originally, about half of them would first need to learn basic knowledge.

However, as a result of sending out above-average students to the surrounding Lords, most new students have already learned the basics.

And so, most new students seem ready to learn. It's quite different compared to the first term students that were sold as slaves and the second term students that had various misunderstandings about me.

"Isn't this amazing?"

I could hear a voice coming from the side of me. I turned to see a girl I didn't recognize staring at me. She's maybe a little younger than I am and she has red eyes and red hair. This girl looks a little exotic.

"Hey, isn't this amazing?"

"It really is amazing. I didn't expect there to be so many people."

I noticed that she was talking to me and quickly answered her. Immediately afterwards, the girl blinked in surprise and then laughed.

“No, that’s not what I meant. I was talking about the technology in this city, including this building.”

“Eh?.....A-Ah, I see.”

That’s right. A normal person would be amazed at the technology in this city. My mistake.

I need to be more careful. I don’t want the other students to know I’m a noble or, more importantly, to know that I’m Leon. If that were to happen my ordinary school life with Alice would end.

I have to be careful around everyone.

“Nii-san, are you –”

Her sharp eyes appear to see right through me.

However,

“You must have been living in this city before enrolling. I understand how you feel.”

“...eh?”

“I was also attracted to the charm of this city. I’ve been living in Muhle for about two weeks now, so I’ve started to get used to all the amazing things here.”

“...ah, right. I feel the same way!”

It’s pretty lucky for me that she misunderstood my words. At that moment, the girl’s eyes narrowed.

“I see. I don’t know why you’re hiding it but you’re a noble, right?”

“Fwa!? W-W-W-What are you saying!?”

“Nii-san, you’re reaction is just too honest. You also looked too happy when you thought I misunderstood your words.”

Was her misunderstanding me a trap? I guess it can’t be helped now.

“Am I that easy to see through?”

“Well, the atmosphere you give off is pretty unique, nii-san. See, look at that

girl over there. Doesn't she give off kind of an elegant aura?"

She points to another girl with bright, golden semi-long hair.

Her skin is glossy and her hair looks soft and fluffy. Her appearance is also rather elegant — isn't that Sophia?

Why is Sophia at the entrance ceremony?

...is she pretending to be enrolling this year?

There shouldn't be any students that would recognize her, so it should be fine. Well...I guess this will help her make new friends.

"There's also that girl in the back. Doesn't she give off a calm and gentle aura?"

I turned to look at this girl but didn't recognize her.

She had bluish silver hair and large purple eyes. She definitely looks elegant as well. Similar to Sophia, her breasts are rather big for her age.

She stands out just as much as Sophia. I don't really know her, but I can tell she is a proper lady.

"I get what you're saying. So what are you going to do?"

"Don't worry, I won't tell anyone."

"Really?"

"My name's Akane. I am the daughter of the Cloud Company, Akane. Nice to meet you, nii-san."

"Eh? Ah...My name is Leo. It's nice to meet you."

The way she talks I'm likely to get caught up in her pace if I'm not careful. More importantly, she said she wouldn't tell anyone.

"You don't need to be worried about anything. As long as we get along it's fine."

"Is that so?"

"Why do you look so surprised? You're so mean. Do I really look that evil?"

"Eh? Sorry, well...."

I looked over Akane once again.

She's probably slightly younger than me. It's probably more suitable for her, considering her age, but she's completely flat-chested. She looks rather exotic and I think she'd look nice in a kimono. And, her chest is flat.

"...why do I feel like you're thinking about something rude?"

"It's just your imagination."

...well, her appearance is fitting for her age and she has a distinctive accent.

Her dialect, to me, is a mix of Kansai and Kyoto dialect. This world obviously doesn't have those dialects but that's just what it reminds me of.

"Nii-san, how long are you going to keep staring at me? Am I really that suspicious to you? I'll need a minute, I didn't realize I was such a suspicious person. I'm a little shocked."

"Ah, sorry. You're not suspicious. I've just never been around someone like you before."

"Huh? Is that so? Well, I think it would be beneficial for us both if we got along."

"Beneficial to us both?"

"Ah, sorry. I'm thinking about it with the mind of a merchant. First, we should be able to trust each other."

"...so you mean?"

"The fact that I don't plan on telling anyone you're a noble and the fact that I want us to be friends are unrelated."

"I see...."

I guess she isn't a bad girl. Also, having an interesting girl like this be my friend should lead to a rather fun school life.

It also should help if there are more people that know my secret. That way they can help hide it.

"Akane, let's have a good year together."

“Same to you, nii-san.”

I spoke with Akane for the rest of the entrance ceremony. While doing so, I was able to understand a little more about her personal life.

Apparently, Akane comes from a merchant family — the Cloud Company.

They transport national specialities all across the country. However, recently it seems sales have declined and luxury goods that are sold exclusively to the nobility are no longer selling at all.

This is fairly obvious but to a merchant family like hers, being able to sell the highest quality products is crucial to them obtaining power and financial success.

In other words, high ranking nobles and rich people all want the products created in Muhle.

So, if you want to do business with nobles, you must sell products made in Muhle. The only problem is that the products made in Muhle are produced rather slowly, so merchants that aren't connected can't trade.

— So that's what she said.

...somehow, I feel sorry.

I can't apologize because I'm not 'Leon the Earl' right now, so I'm only able to apologize in my mind...that's right. Everything I do affects so many people in this country in many ways.

I need to think about things differently and change how we do things to help more people.

“...umm, well, that seems hard for you.”

“It really is terrible. If we can't keep up with the times we can't continue to trade, so that's why I decided to come to this school. I'll be able to learn new business tricks and form some personal connections here.”

“—Akane!”

“Uwaa, that surprised me. Why are you suddenly yelling my name?”

“I was touched by your way of thinking, Akane! I have a newfound respect for

you!”

“Y-Yeah? T-That’s nice.”

Akane doesn’t really understand what I mean.

Well, basically I like people that work hard — it has nothing to do with her being a girl. This is also why I did so much to help out Crane when we first started working together.

I’m not planning on giving her any more support than I gave him. I want to help her because she’s my friend from school.

“By the way, nii-san. You’re trying to hide your identity, right? Don’t you think you should talk less proper?”

“I don’t do it intentionally. Thank you for trying to help me hide my identity.”

“Well...you do plan on telling everyone eventually, right?”

“Well, I think I’ll probably reveal it by graduation.”

Even if I want to remain friends with the people I meet here, I’ll have to eventually speak with merchants as the Earl.

Akane placed her finger against her cheek and nodded.

“I think I get what you’re doing, nii-san. Rather than trying to just hide your identity, I think you want to attend this school as a normal student.”

“...wow, you’re really good at reading people.”

“Even if I don’t look it, I am the daughter of a merchant. I take pride in my observational skills.”

Akane proudly puffed out her chest.

It’s nice seeing her so proud of her father. I envy her just a little because I lost my father early on in this life and in my previous life.

...still, I have Milli and everyone else.

“I do think it’s the right idea for you to hide your identity while going to this school.”

“Is that because people tend to avoid the nobility? I’ve heard that everyone

here is treated equally.”

“I’ve also heard rumours that some nobles are disowned by their families if they’re expelled from this school. There’s also a general distrust for nobles among the commoners.”

“I see. Well, certainly....”

If they act like Patrick they’ll be kicked out.

In other words, it means that there have been other nobles that have gone too far and were forced to withdraw or were expelled.

That does seem pretty inevitable based on the nobles I’ve met.

“I don’t think I’m superior to anyone else.”

“I’d like that to be true, but I can’t know that considering this is the first time we met.”

“Is that so?”

Still, I’m afraid that most nobles that want to attend this school are similar to Patrick.

I can understand why she wouldn’t so easily trust me.

“Well, there is another reason to avoid the nobility.”

“Another reason?”

“Well, most students that have come here have parents or lords that expect great things from them. Look at all of their faces. They all have a burden that they carry.”

I turned to look at the many students gathered here.

Sophia and the other girl that Akane pointed out earlier looked relaxed, but every other student looked very tense.

Hundreds of students that carried the expectations of their lords and parents.

They’re all here because they’re expected to graduate next year and bring back the technologies of this school. Do they want to avoid relations between the nobility?

It sounds rather childish to say that Alice and I are here to enjoy school life. I thought I wanted to have a fun year with everyone but I wonder if I should rethink that.

“...eh, hmm? Akane, you’re talking to me.”

“That’s because you’re not like the normal nobility that I’d dislike, nii-san. On top of that, my goal is to form connections and trade partnerships with people.”

“I see....”

In other words, Akane could probably be friends with Sophia and Alice. She doesn’t seem like a bad person and she looks reliable, but... she does seem to be a little calculating.

I’m afraid of what she’d be able to understand after seeing the relationship between Alice, Sophia, and I.

Well, I shouldn’t be afraid. I do want to form relationships with other families. Mainly in a business sense.

Well, I have the next year to decide on all of this — while thinking this, Claire appeared on stage. Welcoming the new students to the school.

Chapter 2-2: This Isn't How the MC Should Behave

After the entrance ceremony, I went to the classroom I had been assigned.

By the way, the classrooms more so resemble a university than a high school.

There are several reasons for this but the main one being the fact that it was more difficult to manufacture individual desks.

That's why I'm currently sitting in the middle of one of the long desks near the back. When I looked down towards the front of the classroom, I could see everyone taking their seats.

Considering this is a class for people wanting to learn new trades and technologies, I'd expect to see a few adults, but...it seems there are only children here. I guess this is due to Claire's influence.

As I was watching this scene, I remembered my days in school from my previous life. From today on, our calm and ordinary school life will begin.

"Yo, is this seat open?"

I heard the voice of a young man nearby me.

He's probably close to the same age as me. He has brown hair and green eyes. I'd say he's a noble based on the things Akane pointed out about other nobility earlier.

A young man I've never met before, but...he doesn't seem so bad based off of first impressions.

"That seats free. Feel free to sit wherever you like."

"I was asking if the seat next to you specifically was open. Well, if you say so, I'll sit here."

Saying this he suddenly sat down next to me.

"My name's Trevor, just Trevor. Nice to meet you."

"Oh? Ah, my name is Leo. Nice to meet you."

He went to the trouble of saying ‘just Trevor,’ does that mean he’s also a noble trying to hide his status? I could probably find out by asking Claire, but... it’s probably best to just leave things as they are.

“What do you think so far? Isn’t this amazing? “

This is the question that exposed me before. Is this guy the same as Akane?

Before, the timing was bad. I answered poorly and became exposed, but that won’t happen twice.

“Right? The technology of this town is amazing. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

“Idiot, I’m talking about the girls. The quality of the girls is so high.”

Eeehh...is that really what he’s talking about? Wasn’t he trying to find out my true identity? Is this guy really just chasing after girls?

No, this could still be a trick. I can’t relax just yet. He just said the quality is high; he hasn’t said anything about their appearance yet.

“To be sure, there are many girls at this school that are really intelligent. This school is full of girls that can read and write well.”

“What are you talking about? I’m talking about their looks. Look at all of them. That one’s really cute and has good style. Couldn’t you mistake her for a princess?”

He’s talking about Sophia.

“And look at her too. She’s an elf with a beautiful face. She’s got really good style and her skin looks so smooth. Not to mention her pink hair that also looks so smooth. Is she some kind of goddess?”

Now he’s talking about Alice.

By the way, the students were separated into ten different classes. Sophia, Alice, and I were all in the same class. This isn’t some once in a lifetime miracle — this is obviously due to Claire’s influence.

“All of these girls are so cute. And that girl there looks fiery. I want to get closer to her.”

And the fiery girl was...Akane?

So...yep. This guy is just after girls and he doesn't seem to be a bad guy. Maybe this is a chance for me to make friends with another guy for the first time since being reborn in this world.

As I was lost in thought, Trevor grabbed me and shook me by the shoulders.

"Oooooiii! Luook over there!"

"Ooohh, stop shaking me. Calm down, And what is lulook supposed to mean?"

I'm guessing he's trying to tell me to look over somewhere. As I followed Trevor's gaze I saw Sophia walking over to us.

Oi, oi, I thought we had decided to act like strangers here. Sophia arrived in front of us while I was thinking this.

By the way, Sophia seems to be drawing the attention of everyone else in the class, so everyone's eyes are focused on us. Sophia smiled sweetly without showing any sign of noticing the eyes focused on us.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Sophia. Can I ask your name?"

Sophia spoke in a very proper way.

"I...M-M-My name is Trevor! I hope to get along with you for forever, Sophia-san!"

"Ah, sure. And what is your name?"

Sophia immediately brushed off Trevor's greeting and turned to me.

"My name is Leo...is there something you needed?"

I continued the conversation as if we didn't know each other.

"I saw you too talking with each other and thought I'd like to join."

I see. She saw us talking together and thought it would be a good chance to get close to me.

If she joins a group of people talking to each other it would seem less suspicious.

Well, we were talking about how attractive the girls are here. It's probably best to leave that part out.

"I just wanted to talk with you! You two looked very happy. By the way, if you don't mind, can I call you onii-chan?"

What happened to the casual approach!?

Why would you call someone you just met 'onii-chan!?' No matter how you look at it that's not natural!

"Is that not okay?"

"No, that's...."

I need to think about this. I just need to remain calm and think.

We need to talk naturally to each other. But I don't know what I can do now. If I tell her no, the situation will only get worse.

W-Well, it can't be helped.

"No, it's fine."

Really!? Thank you, onii-chan! Then, I'll sit next to you."

Sophia sat down next to me while showing a bright smile. If she had a tail I'm sure it would be wagging like crazy.

"Ehehe~, onii-chan, please take care of me."

She clings to my arm and rubs her cheek against me. There's no chance that the class will think we've only just met.

Well...it can't be helped. Sophia hasn't been able to talk with me for some time and I'm sure she was really looking forward to going to school together.

Anyway, no matter what happens now, this entire conversation was just too unnatural.

With that being the case, it's probably best that this conversation was so impactful. It's so suspicious to the point that it may not be that suspicious.

"Y-You...."

Suddenly, I noticed Trevor was looking at me with a serious expression.

I completely forgot about this guy. I thought he'd be asking questions but he just grabbed my hand.

"Please, let me call you master!"

"...eh? Master?"

"Yes. You're the charismatic god that makes a girl fall for you with a single word! You're exactly the type of man I want to become!"

...well, the only reason that happened is that I've talked with this girl before. Though, there is a god at work here. A god that brought me here from a different world.

"Please, even if I can only be a crude imitation of you, allow me to learn from you!"

He wants my advice. Well, he doesn't seem like a bad guy so I should really clear up this misunderstanding now.

"I know it will be difficult for you. I may not be able to reach your level in my entire lifetime, but still, I want you to teach me your ways!"

"I-Is that so. Then...do your best."

Well...I hope he gets over this eventually.

"Yes, just leave it to me, Master! Uuooo, the same charisma as my master!"

He's a really hot-blooded guy.

...that's right. I'm easily flattered, so if I let him get carried away I might become like him.

"I'm sorry for intruding. Do you mind?"

A beautiful voice could be heard near Trevor.

Wha-! Why!? Are these two being serious!? I can't let this happen, but Trevor spoke before I could.

"Y-Yes! What can I do for you!? Would you mind telling me your name, beautiful lady!?"

"My name is Alistair. If you don't mind, I have somewhat of a selfish request

of you....”

“Please, ask me anything! This humble Trevor will grant anything you desire, Alistair!”

“Thank you. I’m sorry, but can you let me have the seat next to him?”

“–Guha!?”

Uwwaaaaa, Treevvooooorr! Hold on! Stay with me! It’s a mortal wound! You’ll be okay, just hang on!

“...M-Master, I’ll go on a journey to improve my skills. I’ll see you again....”

“E-Eh?”

I thought about what he might do, but he ended up just moving over one seat. Going on a journey to the seat next to him? Isn’t that distance just too short!?

Or so I thought, but Akane then approached Trevor.

And Akane said a few words to Trevor. Trevor nodded and after that, Akane sat next to him.

And Trevor showed a brave smile and a thumbs up to me.

Good for him.

Still, Trevor...Akane is just trying to form personal connections for her family. Be careful.

I thought about it, but I just gave Trevor a thumbs up. Akane isn’t a bad person. I’m sure he’ll be fine.

“Why are you making that face?”

“Because I’m sure you’re planning on doing something terrible, Alice.”

“Oh, why would you call me by a nickname. After all, this is the first time we’ve ever met — or that’s what I’d normally say. I actually liked the nickname, so I’ll allow you to call me that.”

Don’t look like you just said something brilliant! There’s no way this looks like a natural conversation to anyone else! Look at everyone! The classroom just

looks confused.

...rather, I've been trying to allow this girl to live an ordinary school life for the past three years, but...in an instant she's ruined that!

If Alice is okay with it, I can't complain. I wonder what all of my hard work was for?

Well, like that, our calm and ordinary school life ended.

And, at the same time, rumours spread that Trevor and I were the sons of noble families that came here to add girls to our respective harems.

...damn it. I can't say anything against that.

Chapter 2-3: Tree of Legend

It's been about a week now since the start of school and things have finally started to calm down.

The rumours have continued to spread about me and most of the class is talking about me.

"Yo, Leo. Do you want to eat lunch together today? And of course, Alistair-san and Sophia-san will be joining us!"

— The guys are always after Sophia and Alice.

"Leo-kun, did you want to study with us this afternoon? Of course, Alistair-san and Sophia-san will be joining us too!"

— The girls are looking for Sophia and Alice too!

Why are Alice and Sophia so popular with both the guys and girls!?

No, this is fine. They both seem to be enjoying a fun school life.

As I was thinking about this, a guy and a girl approached me. What now — Akane and Trevor? Recently, these two have been getting along well.

"Master is popular as usual."

"Why are there both guys and girls asking about Sophia and Alice?"

When I said this and let out a sigh, they both looked at me with a bitter smile.

"What is it?"

"Nothing. I just didn't expect Master to be so insensitive."

"Ha? Insensitive? How so?"

I turned to Akane to hear the answer.

"Why are you looking at me? I don't want to lie, but I don't think you'd like to hear what I have to say."

"Eeehhh...am I that insensitive?"

“I don’t know how to say it. I guess it’s hard for you to notice when you’re the one doing it.”

“Hmm? What do you mean?”

“Against those two, it’s impossible for you to win.”

When I turned my head out of confusion she said, “It’s just evidence of your insensitivity.”

It’s frustrating,

“That’s right. It’s quite amazing that you’re willing to challenge such a dangerous path. Oh, I also have a message from Liz-chan for you, nii-san.”

“...Liz?”

Liz is a girl that Akane and Trevor met on the first day of enrollment.

By the way, even though it has been a week since then, I really haven’t gotten to know her that well. From the few times I’ve met her. and from what I’ve been told by Trevor and Akane, I get the impression that she’s a little clumsy.

“She told me she wanted to talk to you about something behind the school.”

“Talk about something...?”

What could she want to talk about? I’ve never really spoken with her so I wonder what she’d want to talk about.

“It’s like calling me out to confess.”

I was trying to figure out why she would ask me to meet her there when I thought about what it would mean in Japan.

“Akane, have you heard about the rumour?”

“Yep. As for why she’s calling out nii-san, I have no idea.”

“– What are you two talking about?”

I asked Trevor this. I don’t know of the rumour about the back of the school building.

“A tree was planted behind the school building. The rumour states that this tree is legendary and if you confess underneath it, you’ll be happy with your

loved one.”

That type of story is pretty common. Even in this other world there’s stories like that.

“I understand what you want to say, but you’re misunderstanding. The tree isn’t actually legendary. It’s just a rumour that it is.”

“...how is that different?”

“A rumour is just a rumour. There are in fact legendary trees out there.”

In reality, Alice was the one that planted those trees and they’re really only three years old, but they are growing quite splendidly.

So that’s why everyone started the rumours about that tree.

Well, if they knew Alice was a high-elf I’m sure they’d really believe that tree is legendary. Not only is she a high-elf but she’s also the daughter of the chief of her village.

Speaking of the elves’ village, I’ve heard that the trees planted there are managed by the chief of the village.

“Well, I don’t think Liz plans on confessing.”

“I wonder.”

I don’t think Liz knows about the rumour and I don’t remember ever triggering any flag to make her confess to me.

“So, are you going to go?”

“What?”

“I told you. Liz-chan is waiting for you behind the school.”

“She wanted to talk now!?”

I quickly ran to the back of the school building.

I arrived at the back of the school — the scenery behind the school was incredibly beautiful.

There was a small plaza located behind the school. The fresh green grass was trimmed and there were many beautiful flowers planted around the plaza. At

the centre of the plaza stood a large tree.

There was a small garden around the tree. It honestly looked as if it had been designed for people to confess under.

Under this tree stood Liz with her bluish silver hair swaying in the wind.

“You actually came.”

Liz smiled while her purple eyes twinkled. I let out an involuntary smile after seeing her.

“I came here because you called me. Next time, could you choose somewhere else to meet?”

“...why is that?”

I scratched my neck while trying to think of what to say.

“So you really didn’t know. This place is a popular confession spot. If you call me out here you really can’t blame me for thinking you were planning on confessing.”

“Huh?...eeeeehhhh!? I-I-I didn’t call you here for anything like that!”

Liz began to panic and started walking up to me — except her foot got caught in the flower bed and she fell over...although she fell forward, she managed to not hit her face.

“Ow, ow, ow...I thought I might get seriously hurt.”

As Liz was lying on the grass her chest was pressed against the ground — Hmm, was she safe because of her built in airbags? She said she was twelve years old when she introduced herself, but they’re amazing. Doesn’t she make Sophia look inferior to her...it’s not like I’m admiring them.

“...are you okay?”

I knelt down in front of her and held out my hand.

“Ah, thank you very much — T-T-T-That’s really not why I called you out here!”

“It’s okay, just calm down. You already told me it was just a misunderstanding. I know that’s not what you intended.”

Liz is a natural airhead so it's not like I was actually expecting her to confess to me. I've honestly gotten used to the idea of her being a massive airhead.

While thinking this, I grabbed Liz's arm and lifted her up.

"You don't seem to be hurt."

I thought it was a pretty nasty fall but I couldn't find any cuts or bruises on her face or arms. Those airbags...they work really well.

"So what did you need to talk with me about?"

"Ah, right. Is it true that you know Claire Ridill Grances?"

"Where did you hear that from?"

It's not something that I need to keep secret no matter what, but I would rather keep it secret if possible. So, for the time being, I think it's best if I find out how she found out about this.

"I heard about it from a student that went here last year. He saw you talking with her at the graduation party."

A student...really? She spoke with a student that graduated last year?

Hmm, what should I do? It would be pretty easy for me to insist that whoever told her this was just mistaken, but the truth could also come out at some point.

...I think the best thing I can do is be honest to a certain extent and figure out why she wants to know.

"Yeah, I know Claire Ridill a little. Why do you want to know?"

"Please introduce me to Claire Ridill-sama!"

"Claire Ridill...sama?"

This is dangerous. If I'm not careful, my relationship with Claire will be revealed. I have to be careful about what I say.

"There's something I'd like to ask you...why do you need to meet with her?"

"I need to ask her something."

"Do you need her advice?"

“Well....”

It seems that she’s not willing to tell me. Or is it actually something she can’t tell me?

“Let me try asking something else. Why do you think Claire Ridill-sama would be able to help you?”

“That’s, well... to be honest, the person that told me about this school also told me that the Grances family will be able to help me if I’m ever in need.”

“And the name of the person that introduced you to this school is?”

If she can’t even tell me the name of the person that referred her to this school I’ll just have to ask Claire about it later.

“Well...it was the Marquis of Gramp.”

“Oh...the Marquis.”

I remember Crane saying he wanted to add one more student this year.

“I know it might be hard to believe, but it is true. If I’m able to speak with Claire Ridill-sama, I’m sure she’ll understand.”

“Hmm, and you can’t just use the Gramp name to get a meeting with her?”

“How could I do that!?”

“Sorry, I didn’t believe you at first, but now I’m convinced.”

“Hauu~”

Crane’s family name should carry enough weight to get her a meeting with Claire, but...this air headed girl doesn’t seem to want to use his name.

There is another possibility though...no, I’m sure that isn’t it. Maybe because she’s a loli with a large chest the Marquis has given her special treatment — I don’t want to believe that’s the case.

Anyway, it seems Liz doesn’t plan on harming Claire so I don’t see any reason not to help her out.

“Then, can you meet me after school?”

“Can I really meet her!?”

“I’ll just introduce you to her.”

“That’s more than enough! Thank you very much!”

Liz can’t hold back her excitement and starts jumping around.

She must think of Claire very highly for her to be this excited just because she’s going to meet with her. I was thinking she was hiding her real reason for wanting to meet with Claire, but...she really is just a natural airhead.

That’s why, after school, I brought Liz with me back to the mansion. I contacted the staff at the mansion before arriving so they just treated me as a normal student.

“Welcome Leo-sama, Liz-sama. Please come in.”

We were shown into the drawing room rather than the office.

Since I’m being treated as a guest this is only natural — but really, I just don’t want to show that messy room to Liz.

“I’ll go get Claire-sama. Please, just wait a moment.”

It was actually Mary that left to get her. I’m sure most people don’t remember her, but she was the maid that took care of me in place of Milli when I was a child.

After the Sfir family attacked our home, she began working at a merchant’s home for some time, but we ended up buying her from them for twice the price they wanted.

At first she was cautious around me because she thought I was a troublesome child, but, now that she’s been serving here for a while, she’s started to act normal...she still doesn’t say much to me.

“Well then, Claire Ridill-sama will be here shortly. So what are you going to do?”

“What do you mean?”

Liz just scratched her head as if she didn’t understand my words.

“Well, it’s just that you plan on asking for her advice on something, right? Have you thought about how you’re going to begin the talks? And have you

thought about the best way to ask her for her help?”

“Umm, well...what should I do?”

“...I’m leaving.”

“Uwawa, please wait! Please, stay here and support me!”

She grabbed onto my waist when I tried to stand up. As I wasn’t really planning on leaving, I just sat down and sighed.

“Even if you’re asking for my support, I don’t even know what you need to talk with her about anyway.”

< Property of Fantasy-Books.live | outside of it, it is stolen.

“Just stay here and you can hear it when I tell Claire Ridill-sama.”

“You still won’t tell me?”

“Just please stay with me!”

She grabbed onto me again before I could even stand up.

I’m not going to lie, this feeling is impressive. This position isn’t so bad. To describe it accurately, it’s the kind of hug I’d imagine Sophia would give me when she yells, “I love you onii-chan!”

If Claire were to see this —

“You look like you’re having a lot of fun.”

Was I too slow? All I could do was let out another sigh.

Chapter 2-4: A Serious Discussion

I'm currently in the drawing room of the Grances mansion. Liz is currently clinging to my waist while Claire is coldly staring at me from the entrance of the room.

"You really do just look overjoyed...."

By the way, this is the second thing she's said since seeing us. Liz returned to her sense and panicked before standing up.

Even though she was panicking, Liz politely curtsied before introducing herself.

"Nice to meet you, Claire Ridill-sama. My name is Liz. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today even though I asked you so suddenly."

She continued her greeting with a flat tone. There's no remnant of the airheaded girl there. It would make sense that this girl was enrolled in this school by Crane.

Seeing her like this has made me realize that she isn't just an airheaded girl. She is also a kind-hearted girl.

While thinking about this, the greetings between the two ended....

"So, Liz, I heard that you had something you wanted to ask me, but may I ask you something before that?"

"Yes, of course."

"The thing I wanted to ask you about was when I came into the room just now it really seemed like you were having a lot of fun. What exactly were you doing?"

I felt as if the air in the room froze.

This is bad. This is very bad. I don't remember Claire being a very jealous person, but there were times when she was clearly jealous of Alice. I don't think she's that jealous of a person, but I can't deny that there's a possibility.

I don't know what Liz wanted to ask Claire, but I'd feel bad if she were to decline just because she saw what was happening.

What should I do? Based on my conversations with Alice I should say, "I'm planning on making Liz my sister!"

...I can't do that. If I were to say that I'd just be making the situation worse.

...I think something like that would only work on Alice.

— And so, I desperately tried to think about what to say.

"Leo-kun was trying to leave so I was holding him down."

Liz responded without noticing the change in the atmosphere. How could she just say something like that in such a straightforward way after seeing how Claire's behaving?

"Trying to leave? What do you mean?"

Claire's gaze moved to me, looking for an explanation.

I feel like it would be best if I just clear this up now. So I told Claire exactly what was happening before she got here.

"So...basically, Liz-sama wanted Leo-kun to stay and support her?"

"Umm...that's right."

"And why is that? You wanted to meet with me, right? So why would you need him to be able to speak with me?"

It's similar to what I suspected, but Liz really doesn't know that I'm the head of the Grances family or Claire's brother.

"Well...I'm not sure. I just thought I'd be able to rely on him."

"...I see."

Claire pretends not to notice anything, but I can tell. She was pleased to hear someone praising her brother. Liz is just a natural airhead and doesn't notice anything.

"Then, umm, Claire Ridill-sama, I wanted to ask you something."

"Right...you can ask me anything. Ah, but first, you can call me Claire."

“Claire-sama?”

“No, just ‘Claire’ is fine.”

“No, no, that’s not possible. As long as I’m a student here I should call you Claire-sama.”

“...alright then, but I’ll just call you Liz. Can you tell me what you needed?”

Based off of the current exchange, is it possible that Liz is someone that ranks higher than an earl? Is she a relative of the Marquis of Gramp? Or is she the daughter of someone from the Gramp family?

While thinking about this, Liz began speaking.

To summarize everything she said, Liz really hates the idea of arranged marriages.

But it is inevitable that she would be forced into a marriage she hated if she were to have just left things as they were. So, to avoid this, she asked Crane to get her enrolled in the school in Muhle. It seems that she told her family that she wanted to learn skills that could be used in her life.

It seems that she wanted Claire to provide her with some assistance.

To be honest, it’s a very troublesome story.

Because, based on everything that’s been said, Liz is almost certainly from a family that ranks higher than ours, and she’s asking us to get involved with this family.

It’s almost like asking us to be openly hostile to a higher ranking family than our own.

I want everyone to be able to live a happy life in a comfortable environment. And, as long as I’m going to school with Alice, I wanted to avoid getting involved in any political matters.

But....

Being forced into a political marriage.

Both Claire and I have suffered in the same way. We both know how Liz must be feeling now.

Well, as I was thinking this...Claire began to speak.

“There is one thing I need to know...Liz, how do you feel about your fiancé?”

“I care for him deeply, but I don’t love him in a romantic way.”

“I see...that’s really the opposite.”

Claire began muttering to herself...the opposite? Is she talking about Caroline and our Father? But they eventually began to love each other.

As I thought about this, Liz continued speaking.

“Although Claire-sama was in the same position as me, you managed to gain your freedom and accomplish so much. Please, lend me your power!”

“I’d like to help you and allow you to become independent, but based on the circumstances, I really can’t help you.”

“— Is...that so....”

I really don’t think she was expecting to be refused so quickly. Liz quickly fell into a depressed state.

I was also pretty surprised. I wanted to speak up, but Claire was clearly trying to tell me to remain quiet...is she planning something?

“While I would like to help you, if I were to do so, your family would not recognize that as your own accomplishment.”

“That’s...that’s right. I believe you’re right.”

That is true.

It would be easy to give Liz everything she needs to become independent. All Liz would have to do is utilize the knowledge Claire and I can give her.

But, if that were to happen, I don’t think anyone would truly recognize Liz’s own abilities. Or, at the very least, they’d feel the need to test Liz just to believe in her success.

“Well, Liz, I’ll tell you this because you seem to be misunderstanding something. I didn’t get to where I am today due to my own abilities.

“...but...you were able to grow the Grances territory so much.”

“That was not my own doing. I received a lot of help from a certain person.”

“Is that true?”

“Yes. That person knew I hated the idea of a political marriage and did everything possible to grant me my independence. That person is responsible for everything here. Everyone tells me I’m amazing, but in reality, I’ve done nothing.”

...does Claire really feel that way?

Certainly, many people have credited Claire for developing the various technologies we use here, and she didn’t do any of that. So that part of what she said is true.

But Claire is excelling in many other fields. Alice and I would never be able to rule the Grances territory as well as Claire has. Claire definitely deserves all the credit for that...I don’t understand why she feels this way. Well, I can’t ask her now. I’ll just have to continue listening to their conversation.

“That’s why I don’t think it’s wrong of you to ask someone for help. Rather, I just think you’re asking the wrong person. You should be asking someone that you can truly rely on.”

“So you’re saying you know of someone that can help me? But, I don’t know who else possibly could....”

“I know of someone. In fact, it’s the same boy that you asked for support earlier.”

— Guha! That was dangerous. I just started choking after hearing her words.

No, I must have misheard her. There’s no way she just said that, right?

I’m just a student. Even if I were to manage to achieve something with Liz, everyone would just think it was the work of two students, or maybe I would actually receive all of the credit.

However...if my identity as the head of the Grances family was revealed, and everyone were to know that I was the one responsible for all of the drastic changes that have been made here...would that really help Liz out?

“Leo-kun, would you help me with Liz? That is of course if it’s not too much

trouble for you.”

...hmm, it’s not like it would be troublesome for me. I’d be happy to help her.

However, right now, my main purpose is to live an ordinary school life with Alice. That must be why Claire is thinking it might be hard for me.

Although, if I don’t help Liz, her problem could escalate to the point that it completely ends Alice’s calm school life.

“Leo-kun, please. Will you please help me?”

Because I remained silent, Liz was beginning to feel anxious and spoke up. I can tell she’s feeling desperate, but...what does she think I can do to help?

“Before you start completely relying on me, are you really okay with this? You don’t know anything about me.”

“It’s true that I really don’t know much about you. However, this is Claire-sama’s recommendation and the Marquis of Gramp told me I could believe in her.”

“So you trust in Claire’s suggestion?”

“Yes, but I also feel like I can believe in you.”

She’s really making it impossible for me to say no to her.

...well, it should be fine, right? It won’t be that big of a deal if I just help her achieve what she wants. Helping her will also help Alice and this is a request from Claire.

For now, I’ll do my best to help her in any way I can.

Chapter 2-5: My Sister-In-Law (Sophia) Has No Self-Restraint!

The day after I decided to help Liz, I was eating lunch with Alice in the cafeteria.

By the way, as usual, Alice and Sophia were with me. Akane and another girl named Amy were also with us.

Since Amy was a friend of Akane's, we naturally also became friends. She's apparently the daughter of that man that owns Wells Clothing Shop.

Wells really did recruit a lot of students to attend the school in Muhle. It was probably inevitable that we'd meet.

Anyway, the weather today was amazing and we were enjoying our lunch together.

"So, nii-san, did Liz-chan confess to you yesterday?"

"-Buh!"

Akane just dropped a bomb and, of course, Alice and Sophia were listening intently.

"I'd like to hear about that in detail~"

"Can you please tell Sophia everything she said~?"

See!? They're already jumping to conclusions! I looked at Akane before turning back to them to explain.

That's right. I can't just throw Claire's name out so casually. I'll need to explain things to Alice and Sophia later...I also can't allow Akane to imagine strange things so I need to say something, but I can't let her know about me helping Liz.

Then....

"She called me out yesterday to talk. She didn't know anything about the rumour and didn't plan on confessing. She was interested in signing up for some

electives together.”

By the way, I introduced electives to the school recently.

Originally, we mainly taught agriculture, but now we teach many subjects. So I allowed students to choose what subjects they want to learn.

“Fu~n. So, Leo, you plan on spending all of your time with Liz from now on?”

Alice said this. I don’t blame her for being annoyed. It’s only been ten days since we started going to school together.

I’ll tell her about the situation later. I really do want to spend as much time as possible with her.

“If it’s okay with everyone else, I think we should all take the same electives. I don’t know exactly what Liz is interested in but I’m sure we can find something for everyone.”

— and I looked at Sophia, thinking she’d be the most likely to agree.

“Sorry, Leo onii-chan. Alice onee-chan and I have already decided what to do.”

“Ah, okay...what did you two decide on?”

“Sophia will be cooking and Alice onee-chan will be making clothing~”

“Clothing and cooking....”

Both of those are rather fitting for those two. It’s good that they’re learning new things, but will that be okay for the teacher?...I’m sure they already know more than they can be taught.

“Oh, Alice-san chose tailoring? That’s also what I’ve decided on. Are you okay with doing it with me?”

Amy was the one to speak this time. As the only daughter of the Wells Clothing shop, she must be working hard to make her family proud. I’m sure she feels really motivated.

“Of course, Amy. We can go together this afternoon.”

Alice is happily talking with other students. She really seems to be enjoying ordinary moments as an ordinary girl. I’m glad I decided to enrol her in school.

While watching them, Amy began to speak to Alice.

“I’m sure everyone expected me to do this, but can you sew, Alice?”

“Eh? Well...a little.”

She can’t do anything but lie. She’s the one responsible for all of the amazing clothing in this world. The founder of the Alice brand.

Amy is coming to this school to learn the new techniques for making clothing, but...what if she loses confidence after seeing Alice’s talent?

“Hmm, and Sophia, are you a good cook?”

“Sophia likes to make sweets! Sophia was the one that made the Mille crepe that Akane is eating~”

““– Eh!?””

I guess this was beyond their imagination. Both Akane and Amy let out a surprised yell. Sophia is revealing her hidden talents.

“Huh, you really are the witch of the school.”

Akane muttered slowly to herself.

Well, that’s only natural. Sophia has been going to this school ever since it opened. She really is the master of this school....

“But why a witch?”

“No, well...it’s just something I’ve heard from people.”

“I see. Well...why is that?”

“Isn’t it because Sophia’s intuition is so good?”

“...intuition? Ah.”

She’s talking about her ability. That makes sense that people would talk about her when it seems she can tell what other people are thinking.

“Do you know about our secret club activities?”

“Secret club...what is that?”

“Onii-chan — it’s a secret, Leo onii-chan.”

What does that mean? Is Sophia keeping a secret from me?

No, calm down. Calm down! It's natural for a girl of Sophia's age to have one or two secrets... even if that is true, I'm still worried about it!

"Sophia, can you tell me about that?"

"No."

"Then, just a little hint?"

"Leo onii-chan is too persistent!"

"— Guha!?"

Impossible. Sophia said I was being persistent? Is she entering her rebellious period? O-Or am I really just persistent?

...ah, I was born again and I thought I'd be able to live a happy life... apparently, I made a wrong choice at some point in my life.

Ah, I wonder where it all went wrong....

"Muu...it can't be helped."

I looked up to the sky moving outside of the window and, at the same time, Sophia whispered into my ear.

"Sophia?"

"Umm, it's a secret because you're onii-chan. It's only a secret from onii-chan, okay?"

"That's...."

Is she saying it's a club activity about me and she's not just trying to avoid me?

"Because it would be embarrassing if I knew, you're keeping it secret?"

— I was revitalized.

Of course. Sophia would never avoid me. Yeah, of course, I knew that.

I'd never need to worry about Sophia hating me. Now that I don't need to worry about that, I need to talk to Liz about what electives she'd like to try out.

But...really though. What is the club activity Sophia was talking about?

Does it have something to do with why she's called the witch of the school?
Well, I'm sure it will be fine. After all, she's a sensible girl.

I don't have to worry about Sophia not showing self-restraint.

Chapter 2-7: Shopping

A month has passed since that event with Liz.

It was now mid-June. I was now relaxing in the footbath of the mansion after finishing my classes for the day.

“Ah~, the footbath really is the best....”

Soaking in a footbath can really heal my entire body.

This is the only thing from my previous life that I can enjoy in this new world. It has a similar magical effect to resting with your feet under the kotatsu.

I still need to help out Liz...even though it's been a month, we still haven't found anything she's suited to.

Well, ever since her failure on the first day we've only been trying one new elective a day. There's still a chance we can find something she's good at.

If she tries hard at something, I'm sure she'll be able to become better than the average person at it. Although, I'm still not sure she'd be able to improve enough to impress her family before she graduates.

...hmm, well, if it's necessary, I could just offer her family new technology straight up....though, I'd rather avoid doing that if at all possible. As I was thinking about this, I could hear footsteps running towards me.

< < 24. <<<< Property of Fantasy-Books.live | outside of it, it is stolen.

“Leon~”

Alice sat down beside me and hugged my arm. She slightly raised her skirt and put her feet in the bath.

“Alice, you just got home now? It's quite late.”

“Hee~, I was practicing cooking with Sophia.”

“I see. So that means Sophia....”

“Sophia is also here~”

Sophia came up to my other side and copied Alice's actions.

Two girls with their skirts rolled up are sitting on either side of me....their white thighs are amazing.

"Do you two want a towel to cover yourselves?"

The moment I said that the two of them noticed where I was looking. They both let out small laughs.

"Leon onii-chan, you don't need to be worried. These skirts are enchanted so you can't see anything."

"Of course I remember that."

Due to Alice's inscription magic, whenever the inside of the skirt is visible, mysterious white lights appear to cover it. As for me, I just see darkness if I'm able to see under their skirts.

...this was all Alice's decision. I definitely didn't tell her to do it.

"There's no one else here anyway, so I'm not worried about it. I don't mind if you're the one to see it."

"Hmm~, does Leon onii-chan want to see what's under Sophia's skirt?"

Wha-!?"

S-Sophia's as straightforward as always.

How about it, Leon onii-chan?"

"No, umm...it's not about whether I want to see it or not, it's the fact that I can see it."

"In other words, it can't be helped that you're able to see inside our skirts. It's fine, you don't have to hold back."

Aah, I was hit with an attack from the other side now. What can I do when I'm being tempted by two girls on either side of me?

— But, why are these two being so forceful to begin with....

"I'm really sorry to both of you."

I looked at them both apologetically and they were surprised by my words.

“...Leon?”

“...Leon onii-chan?”

“We were supposed to be going to school together and I’ve been so busy with Liz lately. I’m sorry that we haven’t been able to spend time together. But, that’s no excuse for me to not spend time with you two.”

I really do want to help Liz, but the entire reason I’m going to school is so Alice can live an enjoyable life at school.

However, if Liz is left alone, she may continue to feel depressed and that could affect Alice’s school life.

That is the main reason for me to help Liz.

“...you don’t need to be worried about that.”

...what is she saying? If I do something wrong, or even if I did something right, they both seem to be okay with the one they love doing something wrong.

Aaaahh, I inadvertently thought of something embarrassing! Even though they’re acting rather forceful, it’s not due to their own anxiety. They’re really just playing around. I was just overthinking everything.

“I’m sorry. Forget about what I said.”

I became embarrassed and tried to move past it. Then I said, “I want the three of us to spend more time together.” After hearing my words they looked at each other, then Alice spoke.

“Three people...just the three of us?”

“I really want to spend more time with Claire as well, but that’s just impossible as long as I’m a student here.”

Although I do feel bad for Claire, I have something else planned for her.

“We understand that you have to look after Liz-san.”

“That’s right. After all, Claire onee-chan was the one that asked you to.”

“I’ll be sure to look after Liz properly, but I can still take occasional breaks to spend time with you two.”

I'm honestly not sure if I'll be able to resolve Liz's problem soon or not based off the difficulties we've had finding an elective for her, but I can't dedicate all of my time to her and neglect these two.

That's why I decided to take a little break with just the three of us.

"Leon is so kind."

"...because I'm kind to everyone, doesn't that just mean I can be taken advantage of?"

I looked at the two of them with suspicion and Alice just showed a mischievous smile. And the two of them leaned in closer and placed their lips close to my ears.

"You definitely are friendly to everyone. However –"

"Leon onii-chan pays special attention to Alice onee-chan and me."

"And that's why –"

""– I love you.""

Sweet words were whispered from either side of me.

The blood began to rush to my head and I was starting to get dizzy. No, that's not it. I'm just dizzy because I'm soaking my feet in the hot footbath. It definitely has nothing to do with these two....

And so, we were now on our mini-vacation. We decided to do it on the first holiday break from school. Alice, Sophia and I were all here. And we had now become four with Liz here.

...don't misunderstand. I didn't invite Liz to come along. She wanted to come along and Alice and Sophia extended an invitation to her.

I told them about her situation and they wanted her to come with after they found out that she still was unable to find anything she was good at. That's why they wanted her to come with so she could relax.

Well, I still don't really get it. In the end, I decided to just go along with them.

"Thank you for inviting me along today. I hope to get along with you two."

Liz bowed her head to Sophia and Alice.

“Nice to meet you. I hope Leo isn’t too much of a bother to you.”

“Yep, yep. Onii-chan is always troublesome.”

Would you stop already? Why are they acting like my mother? And I’m the one that’s supposed to be looking after her.

But Liz doesn’t really seem to take notice of their comments.

Liz just panicked and said, “No, I’m the one that’s indebted to him.”

This is a weird start, but they’re at least getting along. I really hope they can become friends.

“Now that the greetings are out of the way, where should we go first?”

I casually changed the subject and asked this of everyone.

“I’d like to look at some clothes.”

“Sophia wants to go to the cafe that’s selling the latest sweets.”

“Actually, I wanted to...go look at the lingerie shops....”

Alice, Sophia, and Liz responded in that order. Some of those are a little awkward for me as a man, but I have my own places I want to visit.

“As for me I want to –”

“Go rest in a footbath?”

“Visit the footbath?”

“You want to rest your feet in a footbath?”

“– how do you all know!?”

I was astonished. For them all to respond with ‘footbath.’ How would Liz already know that?

“The places we want to go are all far apart from one another....”

“Not really. We can just visit each of them together.”

“Wait, you want me to go with you to a lingerie shop?”

“Well, that’s what I meant.”

“That’s what you meant....”

Sophia and Liz have grown up in a world where it's normal for men and women to bathe together, but Alice has memories of our lives on Earth. She's just showing little self-restraint once again.

— I guess I really shouldn't expect any common sense from Alice.

"...are you thinking something mean right now?"

"It's just your imagination. I'll just wait outside for you, alright?"

"No...well, we can talk about that later. I'd like for you to help me pick out some clothes. Will you come with me to a clothing store?"

"It's fine if it's just clothing, but...I absolutely won't go in the lingerie shop!"

And like this, we arrived at a large clothing store in the centre of town.

"I was fooled...."

I collapsed to my knees on the carpet inside the store.

A shop that was selling Alice brand clothing in the city of Muhle. It was a general clothing store that sold clothes, shoes, and underwear.

I really should've predicted it when I first saw how large the store was. The majority of clothing sold in this city are Alice brand.

If this store just sold clothing it wouldn't be as large as a shopping mall.

"What are you doing, Leon?"

Alice came over to me as I was on the ground.

"Don't call me Leon with Liz so close by. Anyway, just leave me alone. I just want to sit here in my depression for being so easily deceived."

"Hmm? So, what do you think about this?"

"What do I think about what...."

I let out a sigh and stood up. I casually looked over at Alice to see her holding a light blue bra up to her chest.

"Does this bra look good on me?"

"Stop pressing it up to your chest like that. I can't help but picture certain things if you do that."

Besides, the tag is visible — actually, maybe she's doing that intentionally. I could clearly see the tag on the bra that said '65E.' So her bust measurement is around 85.

What's with her ridiculous figure!?

— Wait! The unit of measurement in this world should be different from Earth. Doesn't that mean that that number isn't in centimetres?

"By the way, since the units of measurement in this world were so ridiculous, I've started using the metric system from Earth here in Muhle. Because the metric system doesn't exist in this world I just had to base it on my best guess."

"...is that so?"

So did she show me the tag on purpose?

So Alice guessed the length of one metre and has based all the other measurements off of that.

Alice's guess? So that means one metre on Earth is probably similar to one metre here. In other words, the number on that bra is probably accurate...she is growing quite well.

"So, do you think this bra suits me?"

"...what are you trying to do? Asking me something like that."

"Eh? Well, if I show you this underwear now, you'll think about me wearing it, right? And that way you'll feel even more tempted by me."

"You were thinking such a terrifying thing!?"

I'll definitely think about that if she says it so straightforward like that.

"So, I think I'll buy this blue underwear and this black underwear with lace embroidery."

"Like I said, you don't need to show it to me!"

Although I said that, I can't avert my eyes. I could look away from stuff like this when I was a child, but after hitting puberty I really can't force myself to look away. I feel that my body is starting to affect my mind.

...that's just an excuse.

“Leon onii-chan, listen to this! My bust has become 78!”

“Mine is 85. What do these numbers mean?”

Sophia and Liz returned with their own Alice brand underwear. How do I respond to this...?

“Umm, well...you shouldn’t reveal that information to a man so easily.”

These two pure girls are too much. Alice is aware of what that number means, but these two have no idea. So, having them ask me is a little embarrassing.

No, calm down. Just calm down.

Sophia’s bust is 78. It’s considerably smaller compared to Alice, but...Sophia is also only around 150 cm. Furthermore, the rest of her body is smaller and her hips are probably only around 60 cm.

In other words, she’s a D cup.

Since Liz said her bust is 85...that means she’s an E cup. And her hips are probably around 65. She’s a little thicker than Sophia.

How is the growth of girls in this world so fast? I’d probably cry if I found out the measurements of Akane and the rest.

...I wonder if there’s a way I could find out.

“Fufu~, what are you thinking about, Leo?”

Alice looked at me with a wry smile.

“You didn’t listen to me. I told you I’d only look at clothes.”

“...so you’re saying you didn’t enjoy this?”

A difficult question for me to answer.

As a man, it would be a lie for me to say I’m not conscious of Alice and Sophia as women. So, if you were to ask me if I enjoy the situation I’m currently in — I’d have to say yes.

But...

“I think you should explain to Liz what that number means.”

“...that’s not a fair answer, Leon.”

“I don’t care. I’m leaving.”

I quickly replied to her and turned on my heel to leave.

However, just as I was about to leave the store, I knew the perfect thing to say to Alice. I turned to face her once more.

“...hmm? What’s the matter?”

“Alice, you’re already really cute. You can wear all black underwear and act like a dominating onee-chan or just wear pure white underwear and you’ll be just as attractive.”

“Fueeh!?”

Alice became bright red in an instant. I smiled at her reaction and hurriedly made my escape.

Chapter 2-6: No Matter How Much She Struggles, She's Still a Clumsy Girl

After Alice had left with Amy to attend their tailoring lessons, and Sophia left with Akane for their cooking lessons, I left to find Liz to decide on an elective.

Lunch ended and I managed to find Liz.

We were sat together in a corner of the classroom talking about what classes we might be interested in.

"Do you have any special skills that might relate to any classes available? Or are there any subjects you want to try out?"

"Special skills, hauu...."

"...uh?"

"Nothing!"

I don't understand her.

"Can you answer seriously?"

"...I'm sorry. Umm, I know a little self-defence, some spirit magic, and proper etiquette. As for something I'd like to try, well...there's nothing I can think of."

"Hmm."

I see. It's surprising that she can use spirit magic, but everything else is fairly typical of a noble lady. Because she's from the nobility, it's a given that she won't have any experience with farm work or many other subjects.

Well, I'd really be fine with any class. But I need to make sure that people don't get suspicious of me. I can't just act like everything comes naturally to me just to earn a little praise from everyone. So then, what can I choose...rather than think about it, wouldn't it be better to look around at each of the classes?

And that's why we were now at one of the farms owned by the Muhle school and Liz was crouched in the corner crying.

I can explain what happened here in three lines.

“O-Oi, Liz? You don’t have to push yourself so hard, okay?”

“I’m fine. I’m very confident in my own abilities — kyaa!”

“Uwaa, that’s the ashes that we use in the field. Aahhh!?”

It was like that.

By the way, this didn’t happen just once but three times.

I actually had to use spirit magic to put the ash back in place. All of the students hard at work were just staring at Liz with cold eyes. Just like Akane said, to these students taking their work so seriously, we just look like two nobles messing around.

After I apologized to everyone, I went to check on Liz.

“So, Liz, are you going to act all depressed forever?”

I asked her this while offering her a cup of tea. We had moved into the dining room to get away from the harsh stares of the other students.

“...it’s cold.”

“I could use my spirit magic to make it hot if you’d like?”

“No, this is fine. Thank you.”

Liz said this and brought the cup of tea to her mouth.

She remained silent after drinking it. She started to panic after she messed up the first time. This led to her making more mistakes and panicking even more. I guess I can understand why she can’t get over it so easily.

“...Leo-san, you’re really talented with spirit magic.”

I wanted to be able to talk to her about something, but this subject could risk me becoming exposed.

“I’m sure you could use spirit magic too, Liz.”

“I’m...I’m really not capable of creating high-quality magical power...in fact, I’ve heard only geniuses are capable of the other two aspects of casting magic....”

“Ahh....”

There are three key points for casting magic.

Creating a precise mental image of what you want to cast, the ability to quickly convert mana into magical power, and the quality of one’s magical power.

If you’re able to create a clear mental image of what you want to cast, the spell that you create will be more accurate. This is the reason why Alice is able to basically do whatever she wants with her spirit magic. Her ability to clearly picture exactly what she wants to happen in her mind is amazing.

Next, mana conversion speed. The faster this is, the more magical power you can generate in a short amount of time, allowing you to cast more powerful magic.

Finally, the quality of magical power created. This is the efficiency of one’s ability to convert mana into magical power. If the quality of the created magical power is high, you’ll be able to do more with a smaller amount of it.

So, if you were incapable of creating high-quality magical power, it would be nearly impossible for you to use magic properly.

For example, if you were to use spirit magic to make a homemade meal, the spirit may be able to do that, but the food itself would taste terrible.

On the other hand, if you could create high-quality magical power you could get the spirit to create an intricate, delicious meal.

“So you can’t use magic at all?”

“No, well....I’m able to convert mana to magical power...it just takes me so long to do so, I could never use it for anything....”

“Hmm....”

Even Alice takes a dozen seconds or so, so it’s not surprising that someone normal would take several minutes to do it. And it only makes sense that the quality of the magical power created would deteriorate the longer it takes to create it.

I guess I won’t be able to experience Liz’s homemade cooking. Rather, if she

were to make homemade food using spirit magic, I might turn into a spirit....

“...I really didn’t think that I was such a clumsy person.”

I guess she’s ready to talk about what happened. This was what I wanted to talk about in the first place.

“Up until now...you really haven’t made many mistakes?”

It would be rather strange for someone to suddenly become clumsy.

“I always had a maid with me so I didn’t have to worry about much. Even though I never had to do much myself, I thought I’d be able to survive on my own.”

...ah, so she was just a very sheltered girl.

“So once you actually tried, you found out that you were clumsy?”

“...Leo-san, you also think I’m clumsy?”

I didn’t answer her question. I turned to look out at the students working hard in the field. To be honest, I really can’t say she isn’t clumsy. It will probably be worse if I don’t reply.

“...I really am clumsy.”

Ah, I made her more depressed — but I can’t help it! After everything I saw today, how could I say she isn’t clumsy?

I could just lie to her, but that would only hurt her more down the line.

“Liz, you definitely aren’t agile. It’s possible that you’re dexterous with your hands, but — from what I saw today there’s no doubt that you’re a clumsy girl.”

“...clumsy girl. Not agile. But I still have potential....”

“But you don’t need to become depressed. Just accept it already.”

I grabbed her by the shoulders and stared into her mysterious purple eyes.

“L-Leo-san, your face...your face is too close....”

Liz tried to escape from my grasp, but I’m being serious so she couldn’t get away.

After she had stopped trying to get away, she could only look at me with her

blushing face.

“...Leo-san, did you know what you said was mean?”

“Of course I did, but it’s true. Would you rather I lie to you so you can stay like that and never improve yourself?”

“I don’t want that, but if I’m clumsy I’ll never change anyway.”

“So that means you’re just going to give up? If you just want to give up, I’ll lie to you and comfort you, but if you want to change then I can’t do that.”

“So you think there’s something I can do?”

“I’m not sure, but there are still plenty of subjects we can try.”

If she’s motivated enough, I’m sure there’s something that Liz can do....

“...Leo-san, you’ll still help me?”

“As long as you don’t give up, Liz.”

I asked that while looking straight into her eyes. Liz looked around for a little while before matching my gaze.

“I won’t give up so please help me.”

“Sure, leave it to me. I’ll do whatever I can to help you.”

After that day, Liz and I decided on trying out a few more electives.

Chapter 2-8: The Daily Life of Alistair

Due to certain circumstances, I ended up inside a women's clothing store.

The clothes here are all designed to match Alice's tastes. There are a lot of tiered skirts and knitted blouses. They're all really cute and are right in my strike zone.

Maybe they're actually made to fit my tastes and not Alice's.

I-I'm sure that's not the case. Anyway, there are many expensive clothes being sold here, but there are also quite a few cheaper items that are made of cotton and hemp.

Still, they may be a bit too expensive for the average farmer to afford.

As we manufacture more clothing and increase the speed at which we're able to do so, we cut the prices of the clothing in the stores. Everyone seems to be able to afford our clothing once the price has dropped to a certain point.

By the way, we also lower the price so everyone can afford our clothing.

When we first started selling clothing we priced it at twenty gold coins, but, not long after we started selling them, someone seriously offered us double the price to buy all of our clothing.

By doing it like this, even farmers will be able to own our futuristic clothing.

"What are you doing in a place like this? Are you buying a present for a girl?"

A familiar voice could be heard nearby me. When I looked around to find the source, I saw Akane standing near me.

"I'm here with Alice."

"And you're not just coming up with an excuse for you to be hanging out around women's clothing?"

Akane looked around after hearing my answer. I could only sigh as I responded to her.

"Everyone went out to buy their underwear. Are you here alone, Akane? And

why are you wearing your uniform when you're not at school?"

"I'm actually here with Amy and she actually ran off somewhere. As for the uniform, I just think it's comfortable."

"...hmm?"

Although our clothing can be expensive, it's not a price that someone like Akane couldn't afford. She's the daughter of a major trading family, so I'm sure she'd be able to buy a few items from here.

"Is there inscription magic on the clothing sold here?"

"Ah~, that's right."

In addition to the lasers under the skirts of the school uniform, it also protects the wearer from UV rays and has the ability to warm up and cool down the wearer. This isn't found in any of the clothing sold in our stores, so it makes sense that she'd find the school uniform more comfortable.

My clothing is completely normal so I had completely forgotten.

"Hmm...?"

I noticed that Akane was quietly watching me.

"Wh-What is it?"

"When I mentioned the inscription magic, you were able to understand what I meant right away, nii-san. Do your clothes also have inscription magic on them?"

The moment she said that I was lost for words. And Akane just stared at me with a knowing smile.

She casually looked around at the rest of the store.

"By the way, the clothing sold in this store is said to be Alice brand."

I'm confident I didn't reveal anything to her with my reaction. In the first place, Akane wasn't even looking at me. In other words, she already had her suspicions before she even started talking to me.

Well, if it's just Akane, I'm sure it would be fine if she knew Alice was the founder of the Alice brand. Though I did go to a lot of trouble so that Alice could

live a normal life, so I'd rather she just pretend that she doesn't know.

Anyway, I'll just casually try to change the topic.

"Akane, have you found any good trade partners?"

"Yeah, I've actually had a lot of luck with that."

Since we're really only able to produce a limited quantity of the products in this city, we've already settled on the merchants we want selling our products outside of the city. It seems there's little room for any additional merchants at this point in time.

"I think things will change once the production begins to increase. Still, it's rather sad that my family missed out on the initial release of these products."

"What would lead to an increase in production? Just a demand for more of that product?"

"Mainly. So, do you know how my family could profit from these products?"

"Well, even if things stay as they are the products will continue to sell...."

There will already be merchants that hold contracts that give them exclusive access to any new products created using a specific technology. It would be easy enough for Akane's family to start selling these products as well, but then they'd just be splitting the profits.

That means, she must be looking at selling entirely new products....or maybe existing products that have yet to be sold outside of the city of Muhle. What could fit into that criteria....well, one thing comes to mind.

"Are you talking about food?"

It might seem like a shot in the dark, but there have been many different places in Muhle that have created new speciality dishes that are only sold in this city. If one could find a way to transport these specialities, they could make a large profit.

"Perishables. If they can be transported without rotting, there would be a large demand for it."

"Ah, that's true. If you could find a way to keep it cold while transporting it,

but I think the distance is too much from here to pretty much anywhere else.”

For example, it takes five days by carriage to get to Rixelheim.

So, a horse-drawn carriage travelling along an unpaved road should travel around 60 kilometres a day. That would mean Rixelheim is around 300 km away.

Five days to travel 300 kilometres. It would be difficult to keep any food at a low temperature for that time.

“Indeed. So, the issue becomes how to transport it...I’m not sure how to go about doing it, but if we chill all of the perishables, we should buy ourselves an extra day before the food goes bad.”

“And if you freeze the food it would keep even longer.”

This area of the world is rather hot so it would be hard to find any ice forming naturally around here. But magic exists in this world. Creating ice with magic would be possible.

In terms of how much this would all cost....it just seems way too high.

“I see. I’ll think it over. Thanks.”

“You’re welcome...still, it was a little unexpected. I wasn’t sure I’d be able to keep up with you when you started talking about business.”

“Well, I was using this as an opportunity to see how much you knew. I also wanted to see if you’d give me any new ideas as well.”

“Wow, you’re impressive.”

“You won’t gain anything by praising me like that.”

While saying this Akane showed a smile and looked a little embarrassed.

Then, I could hear two separate voices calling out to Akane and me.

Amy was calling out Akane’s name, and Alice mine.

“Alice is here to get me, I won’t take up any more of your time.”

“Yep. Actually...there’s one thing I wanted to tell you. Be careful around Liz.”

“Liz? Why’s that?”

“I don’t know everything about the situation but there were several high-ranking nobles she was ordering around like it was no big deal.”

“Hmm...well, thanks for letting me know.”

Is Liz trying to find out more about my family? Or is it something else entirely? Either way, it would be best if I remain cautious around her.

“Then, I’ll be going. Take care.”

“Yep, see you at school.”

I left Akane and regrouped with Alice and the others. We resumed exploring the city with each other.

After we visited the shops everyone wanted to go to, we took a break at a footbath cafe. As the sun was beginning to set, we left the cafe and everyone went home to the dorms.

“Nn~ we got to go out and have fun with each other for the first time in a while~”

Alice said this with a satisfied expression on her face.

“Was it everything you hoped it would be?”

“Yep. It was wonderful. Today was amazing and I had so much fun.”

“I see....”

If Saya and I had healthy bodies we would have been able to live every day like this. I’m glad that I was at least able to do this with her in this world.

At first, I only wanted Alice to go to school, but I’m actually really happy that we ended up going together.

Still...I’ve been spending so much time with Liz. I wonder if I should be spending more time with Alice and Sophia.

“...it’s okay.”

Alice mumbled this as if she could hear my inner thoughts.

“I’m fine with you doing what you want, Leon. I told you before, didn’t I? Live freely and be happy.”

“That’s true, but...didn’t you get angry before because you wanted to go to school together?”

On the day that I told her she’d be attending school, she immediately assumed that I’d be going with her.

So I thought she might be dissatisfied with how things are right now....

“Leon, I got angry because you didn’t consider my feelings. Did you really think I wanted to only go to school with Sophia and I’d be completely happy with just that? But you still went through all of that just to make me happy yet you forgot the main thing that would make me the happiest. So, I got angry.”

“I see.”

I’m speechless....

When I think back on it, Alice never even directly told me that she wanted to go to school. I think it’s a little unreasonable for her to get angry at me for not getting everything right.

Or was she angry for me?

“Besides, Leon, you say you want me to have a calm and peaceful school life, but...I don’t need that.”

“So...you’re okay with your school life being crazy and full of drama?”

Our time spent in school so far certainly hasn’t been normal and I certainly think that a peaceful life would be better, but Alice just shook her head gently.

“Whether my time at school is peaceful or not doesn’t matter. What’s important is that I’m spending time with you. Besides, I don’t think it’s possible to have a normal school life with you.”

“...isn’t that bad?”

“We’re still spending time together, aren’t we?”

When I imagined our school lives together I pictured us studying together, eating together, and walking home together after school.

And, to some extent, we have done that. However, I’ve still been busy helping out Liz and the others during that time.

“And so, I want you to continue helping Liz out.”

“...is that really okay?”

“I don’t want to do anything that would prevent you from doing what you want to do. I just want to go to school with you. So, if you want to help Liz, then I’ll do whatever I can to help you. And that’s how I’ll have the most fun at school with you.”

Alice showed a gentle smile.

The light from the setting sun was reflecting brilliantly off of Alice’s cherry blossom coloured hair. I wish I could take a picture of this scene and save it forever.

I was incredibly conscious of how fast my heart was beating.

“Besides, after spending all day together, I’ve realized that Liz is really trying hard. I decided that I’d like to cooperate with her. Sophia-chan also came to the same conclusion.”

And now she’s showing a mischievous smile.

< Property of Fantasy-Books.live | outside of it, it is stolen.

Perhaps they invited Liz today so they could get closer to her.

I don’t know their actual reason for doing it but I do know that they’re both good and reliable girls.

I don’t know exactly what I can do to help Liz out on my own, but I’m sure with everyone’s help we can come up with something.

At the same time as I thought this,

“Please, don’t touch me!”

I could hear Liz’s shrill voice scream out.

Chapter 3-1: Liz's Family Matters

After hearing Liz's yell, I quickly turned to look in her direction. Sophia and Liz had started walking a little ahead of Alice and I and a knight-like man was blocking their entrance to the dorm.

I quickly ran up to them to get in between them.

"Liz, what's wrong? What happened?"

"W-Well, that's...."

Liz backed down and wouldn't look me in the eyes. It's almost like she's frightened....is she afraid of saying something?

Well...should I just listen to what the knight has to say?

"I'm sorry, but who are you? Are you a knight?"

"And who are you to be asking that?"

"I'm sorry for being rude. I'm Leo, her friend."

"I see. I...was ordered by Liz-sama's parents to retrieve her."

There was something strange about what he said or maybe it was how he said it, but Liz didn't try to argue with him on that point.

I thought he was trying to use Liz's family as a way of deceiving me but I guess I was wrong.

So he really is here to pick her up. Liz is here because she didn't want to be forced to marry anyone so her parents probably sent this man here to bring their daughter back home.

I want to help Liz out, but...at the same time, I don't want to stop someone that's essentially her guardian from bringing her home.

As I thought this, Liz moved behind me.

"I said I wasn't going back. Tell onii-sama that I won't return."

"Regardless of what you have said, you're engagement is still happening. I'll

be in trouble if you don't return."

"That's why I —"

I could tell that this wasn't going to get anywhere so I stopped Liz from responding. Then I spoke up.

"Isn't it obvious that she hates the idea of being forced into marriage?"

"...this is a family matter. An outsider like you should just remain quiet."

"Is it common for this family to not care about what their own daughter wants?"

"So, you just expect me to leave?"

His tone was polite but I could tell he had no intention of leaving.

" — Liz is clearly frightened. Isn't this enough for today?"

While I said this, I also motioned him to look towards the dorm with my eyes.

It looks like he was able to understand what I wanted. He turned towards the dorm and could see a group of students as well as a Grances knight standing there.

If things get worse, I can turn to that knight for help.

Of course, that's just what I want him to think.

Liz's family is clearly of a higher rank than our own. Liz has already publicly stated that she doesn't want to get married.

Even if we were to officially protest against them forcing her into marriage, it would end poorly.

But it also seems that this man sent to retrieve Liz also wants to keep her identity hidden. So, he probably wants to avoid any kind of public confrontation.

And so —

"...I understand. Then, I'll return soon."

The man said this with a sigh. Apparently, my bluff actually worked.

At least this man was rational. If he was like Patrick this probably would've

ended much worse.

“ — Liz-sama, I will be excusing myself for today.”

He bowed to Liz and the knight-like man walked away.

I confirmed that he was out of sight and turned to speak with Liz.

“Thank you, Leo-kun. That was....”

Liz was still lost for words. I don't need her to explain everything to me. I already know that she wants to keep her identity secret.

“Liz, I made him leave. Did I cause you trouble?”

“– Eh?”

“It really is more troublesome for you now, isn't it?”

“No, it really isn't any trouble at all. You really saved me.”

“Okay. That's good to hear.”

I kind of forced him to leave without considering what her family might do later.

“Eh, umm, Leo-kun?”

“Hmm? Was there something else?”

“No...it's nothing like that. Just, thank you.”

And we returned to the school dormitory. Of course, I didn't plan on leaving things like this, but I also knew it would be pointless to ask Liz.

Besides, I have a more reliable source.

In other words, I was leaving my room in the dorm — it was mostly for show considering I spent most of my time in the mansion — and was now heading to the office in the mansion.

Shortly after, I arrived in front of the office.

I heard a reply after I knocked and quietly opened the door.

“Please, teach me, Claire!”

“Of course I can help my beloved brother. Even though you can be insensitive

at times, you're always hardworking and willing to help everyone else."

"Wait, what are you saying!?"

"Because my otouto-kun suddenly comes in here and asks me to teach him about something but doesn't explain what that is."

"...I'm sorry."

"So what did you come here to learn? Did you want to find out my bra size?"

"Of course not."

Does she know that I learned the bra size of everyone else?

...I shouldn't think about it too much.

"Actually, something happened at the dorm."

"Someone was there to retrieve her, right?"

How does she already know...? I guess there were people around when he was at the dorm. There were also Grances knights there that would almost certainly report what happened to Claire.

Anyway, that makes things easier now that she knows the basics of what happened.

Thank You for choosing to read this chapter at F a n t a sy - b o o k s L I V E.
Glad you are supporting us by viewing it here.

"I managed to get him to leave for today, but I'm sure he'll be back again. I wonder if we'll actually be able to stand against him."

"If you mean using the name of the Grances family to try to stand against them, that's impossible. It may sound cold to say that, but there's really nothing we can do against that family."

"H-Hmm...."

I can't even argue with her because she knows more about Liz's family situation.

It doesn't really matter whether or not the power our family name holds would be enough to influence their decision on her marriage. If we were to help

her that much it would just prove to her family that she's not capable of doing anything on her own — or at least that's how I feel.

“Of course, I'm going to do whatever I can to help her, but it's really up to you.”

“So you mean if I'm able to produce results with her, it may change how her family feels?”

If not, there's no point in trying to help her in school. That's what I thought she meant, but a troubled expression floated across Claire's face.

“That's right...or at least, I'd like to believe that. I really don't know what their intentions are. I don't know much about Liz's family, but it's rumoured that they really dote on their daughter.”

“And yet they're forcing her into a marriage she doesn't want?”

“I don't know much about their family so I can't say why they're doing that.”

...then, the likelihood that they're using her marriage as a political tool seems pretty low.

“Maybe it's similar to what happened with Patrick? Either whoever she's marrying or his family are putting pressure on Liz's family to push the marriage onto her.”

“I don't think that's the case either.”

“Is that so? What kind of person is Liz's potential fiancé?”

“Well...he's about as popular with women as you seem to be.”

“...I don't even know how to respond to that.”

If I deny it, I'll be saying that her partner is nothing to worry about and if I agree with her, I'd basically be saying that I'm a womanizer.

She's clearly just trying to make fun of me.

“How old is he and what kind of person is he?”

“He's a young, ambitious, and tactical man. His ambition is a driving force behind his actions. It even leads to him looking at women as potential tools for his own political advancement. In fact, I'm sure you could stand to learn some

things from him.”

“What exactly could I learn? To be more ambitious?”

“I feel like you’ll be there in the near future. To be exact...well, we’ll find out.”

Claire’s final words trailed off.

“I’ll get a little worried if you say something like that.”

“You’ll understand sooner or later.”

I just now noticed that Claire had been working the entire time we had been talking.

“Sorry, were you in the middle of something?”

“I’ll be leaving for a little while due to my job as acting Earl so I wanted to finish up as much of my work here as I could.”

“You’re leaving somewhere? I haven’t heard anything about that.”

“You have now. Don’t worry, I won’t be gone for long.”

“I understand, but....”

Sometimes Claire has had to leave our territory before. She’d leave to improve relationships with surrounding lords or to discuss matters concerning our own internal affairs.

I shouldn’t have any reason to complain, but....

“Fufun, are you sad seeing your onee-chan leave?”

“Well, recently I’ve been spending so much time at school and I really felt lonely not being able to see you, Claire.”

“R-Really? Otouto-kun is lonely if I’m not around.”

...why does that seem to have affected her so much?

...well, it seems I’ve found a surprising weak point of Claire’s. Actually, rather than a weak point, isn’t it more of a cute point?

“A-And that’s why I’m leaving Liz’s matter to you while I’m gone. Was there something else you wanted to talk about besides that?”

“Alright then...ah, right. What family is Liz from?”

“...eh?”

What was with that reaction?

“Umm...you never told me and Liz still hasn’t told me either so I don’t know.”

“Right, I know that, but I thought you had already figured it out a long time ago.”

...eh? She thought I had figured it out?

So that means she must be from a family I know? The only houses I know are the Marquis of Gramp, the Earl of Sfir, the Viscount of Rodwell, and — it must be that!

“She’s a secret child from the Grances family!”

“If you’re just trying to find a way to make Liz a potential marriage candidate leave me out of it.”

“...it was just a joke.”

I should really be more serious. She might mean that Liz is from a family that I’m only somewhat acquainted with. Maybe a graduate of the school or maybe she’s a member of Wells’ family.

That can’t be the case. Claire was always speaking with her like she was from a higher-ranking family.

“It’s unusual for you to not understand something, otouto-kun. Isn’t Liz’s name a dead giveaway?”

“What do you mean?”

“...”

And she just sighed. I really can’t understand.

“Well, I’m sure the person herself will tell you soon enough. Just be patient and wait until that time.”

“Muu, I understand....”

Chapter 3-2: The Difference in Their Values

Ten days had passed since that knight came to pick up Liz and she wasn't doing very well.

Due to the pressure created by the knight sent by her parents, she has been stressing out trying to produce results. She starts working feeling incredibly motivated but always fails spectacularly. She's stuck in a terrible negative spiral. She tries something new and fails. This leads to her getting angry at herself for failing and then failing even more.

"Hauu, I never once considered myself to be so clumsy."

It was now mid-afternoon on a certain day.

Liz ate very little for lunch and was now collapsed on her desk in the classroom. Her bluish silver hair was shining brightly under the sun, but her heart was dark in contrast.

"Saying that you're clumsy...."

Thinking back over everything we've done together over the past month I've found that Liz isn't good with her hands and her reflexes are poor.

Even if that is the case, I think the real issue is that she's too worried about everything else that's going on around her. She stresses out about what's happening with her family and this leads to her failing every time.

...huh? Is her personality also clumsy?

...w-well, anyway, the main reason she messes up is that she's rushing.

If I can get her to stop panicking so much she should be able to accomplish things at an adequate level — well, she may actually be above average with most things she tries.

So, we really don't need to rush to find something that Liz is good at. All we really need to do is find a way for Liz to remain calm when she's trying to do anything.

I stood up next to the depressed Liz and looked around to find Alice, but I didn't see her. I thought I saw her here just a moment ago.

"Do you know where Alice is?"

I asked Amy who was talking with friends at a nearby desk. I'm not really that close with Amy, but she and Alice have become closer after they had been in the same tailoring class for a while now.

"Alice? She was called somewhere by the teacher."

"Okay."

I wanted to tell her that Liz and I would try making clothes today...I'm sure I can tell Amy to tell Alice if she sees her.

"I'm thinking about taking the tailoring class as an elective with Liz this afternoon. Can you please let Alice know that if you see her?"

I didn't feel like I was asking that much of her, but the moment Amy heard my words she furrowed her brow.

"Umm...I'm sorry. Should I not have asked that of you?"

Amy remained silent after hearing my question. As I waited for her answer I finally realized why she was reacting this way.

"Ah, your family owns a clothing shop."

"...that's right."

And she nodded to me.

"Do you know about the clothing shop named Wells?"

"It sells the highest quality clothing on the continent."

"Thank you for saying that, but that's no longer the case."

"...because of the clothing sold in this town made using the new technology?"

"That's right. We're okay for now but in the near future, I'm sure we'll have to close. That's why I need to learn new skills here too keep our business going."

I'm finally able to understand why she's acting this way. Basically, she's here to keep her family business operating. While she thinks Liz and I are just having

fun trying new electives and not taking anything seriously.

“Of course, I don’t think you’re going to purposefully cause problems in class. I just want you to think about what you’re doing and how it makes all of the people that are taking these classes so seriously feel.”

Amy said this and got up to leave. All I could do was sit there and watch her leave.

I really didn’t think asking her this would bother her so much. So seeing her become so irritated by a seemingly simple question was surprising.

“Nii-san, you really don’t think before you speak do you?”

A voice could be heard from behind me. I turned around to see Akane sitting there. How is this girl always near me but I never notice her?

“Is it true that our actions are really inconveniencing everyone?”

“Yes, well...not so much you nii-san. It’s really just Liz.”

“Only Liz? Why is that? It’s true that Liz keeps failing at everything she tries, but...I’m the one bringing her there.”

“Well, Liz just tries something and immediately causes problems for everyone else. Nii-san, you apologize to everyone and try to fix her mistakes. So, everyone just sees Liz as the one causing problems.”

“Ah....”

It’s true that Liz was the cause of every mistake.

So, I felt like I should fix all of her mistakes myself...did this just lead to everyone viewing Liz as an annoyance?

— I was deep in thought when I noticed a figure over Akane’s shoulder. Liz was standing there with tears forming in her eyes.

“L-Liz, just now that was....”

“I’m — I’m sorry!”

Shortly after I noticed her, Liz turned and ran out of the room. I tried to chase after her, but Akane grabbed onto my arm before I could move.

“Stay here. I haven’t finished talking.”

“Let go of me.”

Liz was crying. I can’t leave things like this.

“I understand how your feeling, but you still need to stay here. What I’m trying to tell you is that I have more to say about Liz.”

Akane’s words piqued my interest and I turned to face her.

“More to say...what do you mean?”

“It’s true that everything that Liz has tried to do recently has caused problems for people, but since you were always there to fix her mistakes everyone was okay with it.”

“...are you trying to say everyone just kind of reached their limit with her?”

And to my question, Akane just shook her head.

“Over the last few days, another rumour about her started circulating. Liz is the daughter of a noble family and she selfishly refused a marriage and came here to escape her problems.”

“...”

How could they know...when I forced that knight to leave there were several people around. Did that rumour form because of that event?

“...do they really think it’s selfish for her to refuse to be forced into marriage?”

“Well...think about it from a commoner’s perspective. If they were told they were going to be married to a nobleman do you think they’d be able to refuse?”

“Stil –”

“They wouldn’t. Every child of a commoner knows just how hard it is for their parents to raise a child...some families get so desperate that they’re forced to sell their own children into slavery just to survive. Most students were sent here under their parents’ orders.”

“...so, they feel like she doesn’t have the right to refuse her parents?”

It makes me feel a little angry hearing that. The only reason this city exists is because Claire and I took a stand against our parents' decision.

"They're not necessarily thinking that Liz should be entirely compliant with her parents, but they really can't picture how Liz feels. Imagine if a commoner was chosen to be the mistress of a noble? How many of them do you think would refuse?"

"That's...."

Obviously, I don't know the exact numbers, but it's clear that more children would choose to become a mistress than not.

I'm sure for a child that's constantly afraid that they may be sold off to slavery, the idea of a life where they never have to worry about food, clothing, or shelter is more than just appealing.

...even back on Earth during the medieval times, there were stories of Kings that would hold large celebrations and hundreds or even thousands of young girls from the common people would show up in the hopes that they'd be added to his harem.

From their perspective, I could understand why Liz may seem selfish.

But...that's exactly why I think Liz is right. I feel the same way about these students that think she's being selfish. If they're in the same position as her, they should do whatever they can to get out of it.

— But saying that would just add more fuel to the fire.

So what can I do? What can I do to solve everyone's misunderstanding? No, it's not really a misunderstanding. It's more of a difference in everyone's values.

...I can't do anything right this second. Right now I should just comfort Liz and think of some way to fix this.

"Akane, thank you for telling me this. I'm going to go find Liz."

"Alright. About the rumours, I'll do what I can to help with them."

"Thank you, but...will you be alright doing that?"

"I'll be fine. I'm not here to learn like everyone else. I'm working hard for

something else.”

“Hmm....”

Akane was sitting next to me showing a bright smile.

I’m really thankful for her helping me. I thanked Akane and leapt out of my seat to go find Liz.

Chapter 3-3: Rumors

I left the classroom to find Liz, but, as she left quite a while before me, she was nowhere in sight. I decided to go to the one place I thought she'd be.

I found her sitting underneath the Tree of Legend holding her knees to her chest.

"What are you doing in a place like this?"

I asked her this and sat down next to her. I leaned back against the large tree and looked up to the sky. I silently waited for her to respond.

"...I never thought I annoyed everyone."

It was almost the same thing she said before about being clumsy.

"Liz, you were raised in a noble family, right? People that are born in different environments have a different set of values than you and it's really easy for them to form misunderstandings because of this."

"What do you mean?"

"Actually, I was told this a little while ago –"

I told her what Akane had said to me.

"A difference in values?"

"For example...what would happen if you were to drop a fork at dinner, Liz?"

"Of course, I'd wait for one of the servants to come pick it up. If they didn't notice it, I'd politely raise my hand and tell them when they come over."

"And you wouldn't just pick it up yourself?"

"Of course not. That would be rude to the others that I'm dining with...why are you asking this anyway?"

This is common sense for nobles.

And I'm not trying to say it's wrong. Even in modern-day Japan, there are rules in more formal restaurants that are similar to this.

But Liz is essentially bringing that rule into a casual restaurant where normal people are eating.

“Commoners would just pick up the fork themselves. They would never feel the need to bother someone else with something so trivial — this is what I mean by a difference in values.”

“Really?”

Liz never even imagined that a world where people pick up their own forks existed. She’s completely dumbfounded right now.

However, we also teach proper etiquette and even table manners in the Muhle school so there wouldn’t be any students getting annoyed at how she behaves in the cafeteria.

So the biggest problem for them is that they don’t understand each other’s values...even I’m at fault here. I was the one bringing Liz around trying to find something she’s good at without even thinking about how it made the other students view Liz.

“I really don’t understand anything. I’m so sorry for inconveniencing everyone.”

“...I’m actually kind of surprised you’re reacting that way. I expected you to be more depressed.”

“What do you mean?”

“You just found out that you’ve been causing trouble for other students and you can’t even turn to your family to console you...I would be depressed in that situation.”

For some reason, Liz showed me a slightly lonely smile, but Liz quickly told me the reason for her smile.

“I was a complete and utter failure, but...I thought it was fun to work hard with everyone. It’s something that I know I’ll remember for the rest of my life....”

“I see....”

She felt like it was fun working with the other students — finding out that

everyone else was annoyed by you being there would be quite the shock.

“Well...if that’s the case, you should apologize to everyone.”

“Could they really forgive me that easily?”

“Of course, just apologizing with words won’t be enough. You should also show that you’re sorry with your actions.”

“Show I’m sorry with my actions....”

Liz looked down after hearing my words.

“Are you feeling anxious? Will you work hard to show that you’re sorry?”

“I’m not anxious. It’s just that...am I really being selfish by not wanting to get married?”

“Oh, sorry. I didn’t want you to feel that way.”

Everyone in the class has been bringing commoner ideals into a formal setting, while Liz is bringing a nobles ideals into the lives of the commoners.

I don’t think it’s right for them to judge her based on that.

— However, even in the society of the nobles, many of them would feel that Liz has no right to refuse her marriage.

But, I don’t agree with that.

“I think that both you and I really need to think about how what we do affects the lives of everyone else. I also don’t think that it’s selfish of you to be against being forced into a marriage you don’t want.”

“Really?”

“First of all, do you think your parents regret their political marriage?”

“I think...I know that they regret it.”

“See? If that’s the case, you shouldn’t force yourself to do something you hate. Even if you don’t believe it, there are people that can understand how you feel. Liz, you’re not alone.”

At the very least Akane was able to understand how Liz felt. And I’m sure there are other’s that will understand as well.

“...so, that means, Leo is....”

“I’m what?”

“N-No, it’s nothing! I just want to make up with everyone. I at least want to do that before I go home!”

What does she mean by that?

Before she goes home? I know that she’ll have to go home someday, but the way she said it sounds like....

“When you say go home, does that mean you already know when?”

“ — well, that’s....I-I just misspoke! Hahahaha!”

...what a terrible liar.

“When are they going to pick you up? Or are you planning on leaving yourself?”

“No, it’s just that, I haven’t decided yet.”

“You’re a terrible liar so just tell me when.”

“...in three months. Onii-sama sent me a letter telling me when he’d be coming.”

“I see....”

He’s coming himself this time. I don’t think I’ll be able to just send him away like I did with that knight.

I wonder if I can convince him to stop, similar to what I did with Crane...it would be a lot harder to do without Claire here to help.

In the first place, I don’t even know what family Liz belongs to.

“Hey, Liz, what’s your family name?”

“My family is....”

Liz is still holding back. So she really doesn’t want me to know her family name.

“I’m sorry, you don’t have to tell me if you don’t want to.”

“...no, I’d like to tell you if it’s not too inconvenient.”

“Are you sure? You don’t have to force yourself.”

“I think I owe you that much. My family and I have already caused you so much trouble...or is that just another noble value and I’m mistaken?”

“No, it won’t cause me any trouble. If you’re okay with telling me, I’d like to hear it.”

I mean, I’m also a nobleman. I don’t see why it would cause me any trouble knowing what family she’s from. Or, at least that’s how I felt before she spoke.

Liz pressed the palm of her hand against her well-developed chest and straightened out her back —

“My full name is Liselotte von Rizelheim. I’m the daughter of the King and I’m twelfth in line to succeed the throne.”

She revealed an unexpected fact.

No way...this girl is Princess Liselotte? A beautiful girl with a gentle personality...the girl with the most beautiful singing voice in this country?

W-Well, if she stays silent I could understand how people would think she has a gentle personality. Well, that would mean there are people that look noisy or obnoxious...that’s not the point.

“Umm...are you seriously the Princess of this country?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

“Then, why would the Princess come to our school? Even before that, when did you even learn about our school?”

“I came to this school because I wanted to achieve something on my own and the reason I know of this school is that Wells told me about it.”

“Ah....”

Wells did say that he provided royalty with clothing, but I didn’t think that he’d tell the Princess about this place.

“So you asked Crane to get you into this school?”

“Yes. When I told him about my circumstances he was more than happy to help.”

“I see....”

I feel like I’m getting into a pretty dangerous situation by essentially helping the Princess run away...well, Crane’s also involved so at the very least I won’t be on my own.

“Then, umm, this will be the last question I have...your brother coming to pick you up is...?”

“Alberto von Rizelheim. The first prince of this country.”

Of course...I’m trying to go up against the Prince.

But that’s fine. The Grances family holds more power than any other noble family. Even if my opponent is the Prince, I’m sure I can stand against him!

— I wish I could remain that confident.

“...I really am causing you trouble, aren’t I?”

“No, that’s definitely not the case. It’s just...unexpected.”

Now it makes sense why Claire didn’t want to use our family name to stand against Liz’s family.

...and that’s why I can’t give up.

I need to do whatever I can to get Liz in a position where she can actually negotiate with her family. We have to achieve something within three months.

It’s not much time but I can’t give up before even trying.

I’ll try to come up with a plan without Liz knowing. I should try to consult Claire as soon as possible.

“I was just surprised. You’re not causing me any trouble, Princess Liselotte-sama.”

The moment I said that Liz looked unhappy. I wonder why?

“...I’m sorry. Did I say something wrong?”

“Yes, you said something very rude.”

She was unexpectedly straightforward. That's nothing like the Liz I've come to know. Still, no matter how I look at it, nothing I said was rude.

"I'm very sorry, Princess Liselotte-sama. Can you tell me what it is that offended you?"

" — Call me Liz."

"...what?"

"If you don't call me Liz, we're done talking."

"...are you saying using an honorific is rude?"

In response to my question, Liz's face turned red.

"I-It's just that...Leo, you were the first person I ever went out with that treated me equally. — Ah, I didn't mean for that to sound like I thought we were dating! Please, don't misunderstand me!"

"It's fine. I didn't misunderstand."

I involuntarily showed a wry smile.

Liz is trying to say that I'm the first person, around her age that's also the opposite sex, that has ever just hung out with her as a friend. and we've been doing that together for the past month.

I think that she feels like she can rely on me and she considers me her friend, but just her friend. There are no romantic feelings between us.

In the first place, I don't remember ever triggering a flag like that.

In other words, I need to help Liz without triggering that flag.

"We should get back to what we were talking about. It was a little surprising to find out you were a princess but that's all."

"Is that all?"

"It is."

"...it is...."

Why does she look disappointed?

She doesn't want to cause me trouble and doesn't want me to treat her

differently because she's royalty, but, at the same time, she's a little disappointed that I'm showing such a mild reaction to this huge revelation.

— that's more troublesome than anything else so far!

"Are you really not bothered by this?"

"Didn't I already tell you no?"

I tried to read the expression on her face, but I really couldn't tell what she was thinking behind her mysterious purple eyes...why do I feel like she has a similar ability to Sophia?

"You really don't feel that way?"

"What have I been telling you this entire time?"

"...but you really aren't troubled?"

"Now you're starting to bother me."

"I knew you felt that way!"

"You must have misheard me."

"I know what I heard!"

She then cutely puffed out her cheeks. It was too funny and I couldn't help but burst out laughing.

"Wait, why are you laughing...ah!? Are you making fun of me!?"

"Haha, sorry. I was just joking, but I guess you've probably never been teased before."

"Of course not and why are you trying to tease me in the first place?"

"I just thought I prefer seeing this cute side of you rather than seeing you depressed."

" — Cu-!?"

"...te?"

"Don't finish other people's words! Just, wh-what did you mean by, umm, cute...."

“Yeah. I feel like you’re a cute younger sister that’s always needing my help.”

I said this without any hesitation. I was trying to show that I saw her as a close friend.

— maybe I’m just being overly self-conscious, but I wanted to make sure there were no misunderstandings.

“Little sister...ehehe~”

— why is she just smiling to herself? Well, it’s fine. Maybe she’s happy that she’s able to talk with a friend.

“Back to what we were talking about. Liz, since you’re a princess, I really can’t stop your brother from taking you, but we still have three months to do something, right?”

“Eh...yeah, something like that.”

“Then, we can’t give up yet. We have to keep trying until the very end.”

“Yeah, you’re right...I need to apologize to everyone first.”

“That’s right.”

That’s the best thing to do right now. If she apologizes to everyone, she can get them all to help her as well. With everyone working together, I’m sure we can accomplish something in that time.

I can’t tell how things will turn out, but I won’t give up. If we take things one step at a time, I’m sure we can do this. We first need to start by having Liz apologize to everyone.

Chapter 3-4: Plans Never Work Out

A few days have passed since then. As a result of Liz apologizing to everyone she inconvenienced, everyone was able to forgive her.

...sorry. That's not quite true.

It's true that she apologized to everyone. It's also true that everyone properly forgave her. However —

The teachers of each of the subjects Liz caused problems for — that being, Milli, Lyanna, Aisha, and Michelle — are still displeased with Liz.

It's obvious that a teacher would want any obtrusive or obnoxious noble to stay away from their class.

And the fact that Liz caused so much trouble for the students of all of these classes hasn't changed.

Even if Liz never meant it, that doesn't change anything.

— and that's why....

“Claire, please help!”

I ran into the office and said this. Tina was the only person inside and she just stared blankly at me.

“...Leon-sama?”

“I-It's nothing. Just now...ah, forget it.”

“R-Right...I don't mind forgetting that, but are you looking for Claire?”

“That's right...she's not here?”

“Claire-sama hasn't returned since she last left. She's been gone for ten days now...didn't you know?”

“Eh? Oh...right, she said she was leaving for business.”

Now that I think about it, I haven't seen her since we last talked. I hadn't even noticed because I was so busy with Liz.

“What business is Claire attending to anyway?”

Tina just tilted her head to the side. It seems that Claire just told Tina to look after her office while she was away.

She assigned the management of our territory to a fifteen-year-old girl...no, I can't really complain.

“Leon-sama?”

“Hmm?...oh sorry. I was just hoping Claire could give me some ideas for this problem I have, but, since she's out, I'll just have to come back later.”

I also don't want to put too much stress on Tina. She's already looking after our territory now so I don't want to ask even more of her. But, when I was about to leave, Tina pulled on my sleeve.

“...Tina?”

I turned back to face her and Tina quickly released my arm as if she were surprised by her own actions. She then shook her head back and forth causing her black hair to become dishevelled.

“Aaah, it's not what you think! It's just that I haven't seen you in so long so I just want to talk a little more — wait, that's not it either! Umm...right, If you need help you can just ask me!”

“Hmm...I wouldn't be bothering you?”

“Absolutely not! Please, sit down and I'll go make some tea!”

Eh, couldn't you have the maid do that? Before I could even say anything, Tina ran out of the room to prepare the tea.

A short time later, I was sipping on the tea and eating the cookies Tina had prepared.

“...you didn't make these just now did you?”

She wasn't gone for very long. She was hardly gone long enough to prepare tea let alone bake cookies. It's not like she's Alice.

“Actually, I've been practicing baking cookies every day so these are really just a result of me practicing. They were just made for practice so I'm sorry if you

don't like them....”

“Is that so? Well, they're delicious so there's no reason for you to be sorry.”

Did she feel like I'd be angry if they weren't any good? Tina, who still looked a bit uneasy, brightened up considerably the moment she heard my words.

“Then, umm...what did you need help with, Leon?”

After I took a few bites out of the cookie, Liz started to speak.

“Ah, right, it's actually something to do with Liz —”

And I explained Liz's situation to her.

“ — I see, you need to find a way to make everyone feel like Liz won't cause any more trouble, right?”

“I'd like to be able to help her out directly, but I think if I were to try to she'd say something like, ‘Thank you for offering, but I don't wish to cause you any more trouble.’”

It's a well-known fact that Liz is a clumsy girl. That hasn't changed just because she's apologized to everyone.

“...well, there's one thing that I think may work.”

“Oh, what's that?”

If it were Claire, I know that she'd have a great idea. So, I wonder what Tina's idea will be now that she's been working so closely with Claire for some time now.

“Do you know about the knights sent out to escort students that go to practice in the forest?”

“Yeah. They're there to protect the students from the occasional monster that appears.”

Even if I say monster, it's basically a type of wolf. By the way, this wolf's meat doesn't taste very good and it's not capable of being tamed.

“Yeah, they're a rare sight, but the students should never be put at risk. So if any students ever enter the forest to practice, a knight escort will be sent with them.”

“I understand that but....”

Tina continued on before I could interject.

“For the next time students go out there to practice, there will be no available knights to escort the students, so, if you’re okay with it, could you and Liz act as the escorts?”

...escort? Liz?...Liz be an escort?

“I’m sorry but Liz is an incredibly clumsy girl. She’s probably the clumsiest girl I’ve ever met.”

“Really? According to my documents on her, she’s more than capable of self-defence.”

“...seriously?”

“As far as I know, it’s true.”

“...umm, by self-defence, do you just mean when she’s attacked by say a horn rabbit, she’s able to call out for someone to help her?”

“No, I meant she’s capable of defending herself against thugs or thieves. Besides, couldn’t a child defeat a horn rabbit with relative ease?”

...even a child? Even knowing that, I still feel like Liz would be defeated.

“Ah, maybe this Liz you’re talking about is someone completely different. The Liz I’m talking about is Princess Liselotte von Rixelheim.”

“It’s definitely the same Princess Liselotte von Rixelheim. She’s twelfth in line to the throne — that is the same person, right?”

“...y-yeah.”

...is she being serious?

Well, I guess it’s possible. Maybe she knows something similar to jiu-jitsu. If there’s a similar technique in this world — something that uses the opponent’s power against them — I could believe it.

...w-well, if Liz really is strong, that would just make it even easier to completely change everyone’s opinion of her.

Aside from that, using the Princess to defend against monsters seems like a big issue. I'll need to run this idea through Liz first and then decide what to do after.

But, before that —

“What should we do if any monsters actually come out?”

“...umm, you can just defeat them all, right?”

“No, I've only just learned to use spirit magic effectively, but I've never once used it in battle. I don't know how well I'd be able to handle myself in a real fight.”

It's one thing for basically children to act as guards, but I'd never do anything that would risk the lives of all of the students.

“Well then...let's do this. I'll have Elsa and two other knights acting as escorts. I'll have them escorting the sewing class so that way Alice will also be there. They'll be acting as if they're taking you and Liz along to train as guards. That way, if anything does go wrong, you'll have plenty of support around.”

“Would that work...didn't you say the knight escort would be unavailable?”

She said the reason we'd be acting as escorts was that no knights would be available to guard us. But now, we're getting the Knight Captain on top of the regular knights?.

“Leon-sama, I have been working under Claire-sama for a while now. Her ability to plan and scheme is second to none and for you to doubt me is the same thing as doubting her.”

“...so the class will be even more protected than usual, but Liz will still have her chance to shine?”

To my question, Tina showed a knowing smile.

— Why is her smile so scary!?

Chapter 3-5: Clumsy Big-Breasted Loli

I was able to find out that Liz can, in fact, defend herself quite well. She's, at the very least, able to fight against an adult and protect herself.

To be honest, I didn't believe it until I was able to see it for myself.

Even if this is the case, she still is unable to remain calm under pressure so she really wouldn't be of great use as an escort.

But she was ready to prove herself in any way possible. The most important thing is that we do something that will get the students and teachers to trust that Liz won't be causing them trouble again. Once we do that, we can get back to proving to her family that she can do things on her own.

I don't imagine that if Liz is just acting as an escort, the commoner students will accept her like that. The main problem that exists between them is the fundamental difference in their values. So, if I don't find a way to fix that issue, then nothing will get fixed in the long run.

So, the next day after school, I invited Trevor and Akane to the footbath maid cafe.

"Sorry for inviting you two here so suddenly."

"It's fine. I don't mind if it's a request from you, nii-san."

"She's right. There's no way I could refuse a request from my Master."

These two are just too kind. I originally only attended to go to school for Alice, but I'm glad that I was able to meet these two as well.

"Thank you, both of you. Today will be my treat so feel free to get whatever you like."

"Ah, I see. If you say so then...I'll have the deluxe parfait with the extra option of having a maid feed it to me!"

"...uh, is there something like that on the menu?"

I was curious and checked the menu myself....

Experience what it's like to live as a noble — that may be what it says, but no matter how I look at it this is just a recreation of a maid cafe menu item that a Japanese otaku would love.

...well, as long as there's a demand for it I really can't say anything.

"So, what about you, Akane?"

"Is it really okay? Isn't this place quite expensive?"

"That's no problem."

It may be even more obvious that I'm a noble now, but I'm pretty sure Akane figured that out a long time ago. Then Akane murmured to herself, "This place also had the name 'Alice' on the sign."

"So, what do you want?"

"Hmm, what would you recommend, nii-san?"

"Strawberry shortcake...or at least, that would be my usual order. I think a parfait with vanilla ice cream would be best while soaking my feet in the footbath."

"Then, I think I'll go with that."

We each gave our orders to the maid before returning to the main topic I wanted to discuss with them.

"The reason I asked both of you here today —"

"It's about Liz, right? It seems that you did your best to clear up the misunderstanding between the students and Liz, but, even though all of the students forgave her, you still weren't able to change the way everyone views her. Am I close?"

Akane stole my line before I even had the chance to say anything. Well, she is right.

However, Trevor doesn't seem to have the faintest idea of what's going on with Liz.

"What's going on with that clumsy big-breasted loli?"

What was that? Clumsy big-breasted loli...no, that seems pretty accurate.

When I first met Trevor in the classroom, all he could talk about was girls, but... he perfectly summed up Liz in so few words.

Anyway, I told Trevor about the rumours surrounding Liz. I told him everyone thinks she's selfish for refusing the marriage her parents tried to force on her and how I'm trying to help her.

"Wait, what!? Did I just describe a noblewoman as a big-breasted loli!?"

"You didn't know that part already!?"

Well, to be more precise, she's a Princess, not just a noblewoman.

Her classmates already noticed that she was nobility, and Akane knew this from the beginning, but I assumed Trevor had already figured it out.

"How am I supposed to know that if she was keeping it secret?"

"...I mean, Akane found out I was hiding my status as well almost immediately. She may be a special case but most of the students found out about Liz relatively quickly as well."

"...what? That's impossible...."

"That's right, Akane is freakishly perceptive."

"Wha-!? Master is also a noble!?"

Trevor's eyes opened wide in disbelief. He didn't even notice that I'm a noble? Was he calling me master this entire time thinking I was a commoner?

As I was thinking this, Trevor suddenly looked serious.

"Hey...Akane. Did you only start talking to me because you knew I was a noble?"

"Why are you suddenly asking that? You're just going to make our relationship awkward."

"Then...there was a different reason?"

"I knew there were nobles in this school, but I really just talk with everyone. I started talking to you just because you were you."

"I see. Thank you, Akane! I hope we can become even closer!"

Trevor's suspicions seemed to disappear and he quickly returned to his usual bright self.

— Did he really not notice? Akane didn't deny that the main reason she started talking with him was that he was a noble....

...well, I don't think Akane is only trying to be friends with nobles. She's just talking to anyone and everyone that interests her.

The more I look at her and who she becomes friends with, the less I believe that she's only interested in forming trade partnerships with the people she meets here.

"Let's get back to the main subject. Do you think Liz is being selfish?"

I cleared my throat and looked at Trevor.

"Hmm? That loli with the huge breasts?"

"Would you stop talking about that! I'm talking about her political marriage."

Why is he so obsessed with her figure? No, I understand what type of person he is. He's the kind of guy that only thinks about stuff like that.

"Oh...right. I don't think there's anything in particular wrong with her doing that, but, at the same time, I really don't know all of the details. I really don't know how to feel without knowing everything about her situation."

"As expected of you, Trevor."

I was expecting him to say it was selfish of Liz to go against her parents. I'm sure that's how most nobles would feel, but he considered her feelings before answering. I'm glad he decided to stay neutral.

And so — I explained how I believed everyone had a different set of values that led to the rumours about Liz and the misunderstandings of the students.

"A difference in values. I can understand that...but how do you plan on fixing that, Master?"

"I'm not planning anything too crazy. I just want to show everyone how people can view things differently based on how they were raised. That way, if Liz does her best and is able to achieve something, they can truly accept her."

“...so they’ll recognize her for putting in the hard work.”

A painful expression floated across Trevor’s face for just a moment. He’s the son of a nobleman that came to a school intended for commoners. He probably has his own reasons for being here.

Maybe he won’t be willing to help. I thought this, but just a moment later Trevor grinned.

“Alright then. If that’s your plan, I’ll help out.”

“Oh, seriously?”

“Of course I’m serious. After all, this is a request from my Master.”

“Thank you.”

I bowed my head to Trevor before turning my eyes to Akane.

“Can I count on you as well, Akane?”

“Of course. I’m sure it will be beneficial to me to have both you and Liz owe me a favour.”

“You’re the same as always, but I knew I could count on you. Thank you.”

After that, we ate the parfaits the maid had brought and begun planning.

Chapter 3-6: Professional Flag Raiser

Akane and Trevor are doing their best to try to convince everyone to give Liz another chance.

But in the end, it will all depend on Liz's own hard work. So, we decided to escort the tailoring class just as planned.

And that's why we were now in the forest of Muhle.

Lyanna was leading the tailoring class that also had Alice and Amy in it.

Lyanna Sensei...it feels more than just a little strange to say that. Though, looking at Lyanna, she may feel more awkward about it than me. Anyway, I, Lyanna Sensei's former teacher, am acting as an escort for her current class. I actually feel a little bad for putting her in this position...I think I'll buy her some sweets later to make up for this.

Anyway, the students of the tailoring class were taken into the forest by Lyanna to gather leaves from the mulberry trees. These leaves would be used to feed the silkworms that were being used by the tailoring class to make clothing.

By the way, this task is done twice a week. If we store the leaves in cold water, they usually can be kept fresh for up to a week. This area of the world is rather warm so it's quite difficult to store anything for extended periods of time.

The rest of the escort team members are Captain Elsa and two other knights. Liz and I remained at the edge of the group.

Sophia was also with me; she also knew what we were planning.

"Ehehe~, I get to go on a walk with Leo onii-chan in the forest~"

I didn't come here to play. Usually, there would be two knights escorting the class and watching the surrounding forests to find any potential threats. Right now, I'm one of these escorts and I'm — casually chatting with one of the students!?

"...h-hey, isn't it better if I'm watching the surroundings?"

I asked Elsa as she was patrolling around the perimeter of the area the students were working in.

“Eh? Ah, Leo — san. You don’t need to be so tense. I’ll notice the moment any beast comes out of the forest. Besides, it’s rare for there to be any monsters attacking in this area.”

“But there are monsters in this forest, right?”

“There’s at least one monster that’s common in this region. It’s a small demon known as a Gulf. They’re extremely vigilant creatures that prefer to avoid large groups of humans, so we’d maybe only encounter them once a year, and considering this group is larger than normal, I think it would be extremely unlikely for us to encounter any today.”

“Ha...haha...it’s safe.”

...now it’s almost certain. We’re definitely going to get attacked today. Elsa was the one that raised the flag before that led to us being attacked by those bandits.

— By the way, those bandits have been working hard in our territory. Garret was the former village head turned bandit leader. It seems that he’s been leading his people well.

They’re still living as criminal slaves, but the conditions they’re living in are better than what they were when they were villagers in Crane’s territory.

The circumstances that led to them becoming bandits were really out of their control, so I’d like to release them as slaves if they continue to work hard. I’m afraid if we continue to treat them as slaves, the rest of the population will have trouble interacting with them.

“By the way, Sophia-san, when will our next meeting be?”

“Hmm~, let’s see. Are you busy two days from now, Elsa?”

“I’m free then. Let’s plan on doing it in two days.”

I noticed that Elsa and Sophia seem to be a lot closer than before.

“Since when have you two been so close?”

“Elsa is the adviser for the club I created.”

“Club? You mentioned that before. What does your club even do?”

“That’s — mou~, didn’t I say it was a secret?”

“....”

If Sophia won’t tell me, I’ll just have to ask Elsa.

“W-What is it?”

“*stare~~~~~*”

“Umm, well....”

“I haven’t even said anything. *Stare~~~~*”

“I’m, umm, only teaching them basic swordsmanship.”

Her silence was finally broken. Elsa couldn’t withstand my constant stare attack.

“Swordsmanship? Like you’re training them to fight in battle?”

“No, to be exact —”

“Onii-chan, I told you it was a secret. Why are you still trying to find out?”

Sophia looked quite angry. I instinctively took a step back after seeing her like this.

“N-No, well...right! I’m your older brother, right? Then, it’s necessary for the older brother to know what his sister is doing, right?”

“Onii-chan?”

“...I’m sorry.”

I have to reflect on my actions as an older brother.

Liz was looking for a chance to prove herself in front of the tailoring class, but that doesn’t seem like it will work out at this rate.

It would be easy to just ask Lyanna to allow Liz to join the class, but that wouldn’t allow Liz to prove she can be useful to the other students...but I think I can still manage somehow.

— Alright, should I try intervening on my own? I decided to try talking with Amy as she was busy working.

“Amy, how’s the leaf picking going?”

“Eh? Ah, Leo-kun. Well, umm...I’m about halfway done right now.”

“You’ve already collected so many, yet you’re only halfway done?”

“Yep. We completed the breeding ground for the silkworms; this led to a large increase in the silkworm population. We need to gather more leaves than usual, but I’m honestly not sure if we’ll have enough mulberry leaves if things continue like this.”

“Hmm, is that so?”

I already knew about this issue, but now I can use this to try to get the students to trust Liz a little more.

“If it’s too difficult for you on your own, maybe Liz can help you?”

“Eh, that’s....”

Even if Amy thinks Liz is troublesome, she’s probably too kind to say that when the person she’s talking about is present.

Amy stared at me resentfully. It’s possible she’s already figured out my plan.

“I’m just asking you to let her help. She’d never cause you trouble on purpose. If she makes any mistakes, Liz and I will be the ones to take responsibility for it.”

“...ha~, I understand. I can believe your words, right Leo-kun?”

“Of course, leave it to me.”

Though, I’m not the one that needs to work hard. I walked over to Liz and explained the situation to her.

“They really need help gathering more leaves. All you need to do is collect leaves, and if you have any question just ask Amy. Don’t get stressed out and be as polite as you can.”

“...ah, of course!”

Liz nodded with great enthusiasm and took a step forward — before getting

her foot caught on ivy and falling face first into the ground.

A moment of silence followed.

Liz slowly stood up and — was smiling.

Ehe~, ehehe~”

...this girl...

“W-Well, I’ll be patrolling around the perimeter, so just do your best to help out.”

We split up and went to do our respective jobs.

As I was walking around on the edge of the clearing we were in, I was trying to keep an eye on Liz. When, suddenly, a slight pain ran down my side.

It wasn’t anything serious. It actually felt like someone was pinching me. There’s no doubt about it. I looked around to find Alice staring at me intently.

“...what’s wrong?”

“I can sense something near us. We’re being surrounded.”

Uwaa, Elsa really did trigger a flag, didn’t she?”

Still, we have more guards here than usual. If what Elsa said is true, the Gulves should be really weak. We should be fine.

Or at least, that’s what I thought —

“There seems to be...twelve people. They’re positioning themselves all around us. They’re clearly not friendly.”

It took me a moment to fully understand her words.

“...huh? Y-You’re saying they’re not Gulves?”

“Yes, they’re definitely people, and I can tell they mean to harm us. This is just my guess, but...it seems they’re targeting the uniforms of the students or the students themselves. I can’t be sure.”

“...”

I finally understood the situation.

“...will we be able to manage with just your spirit magic?”

“I think it might be hard for me to target them accurately. There’s a lot of cover for them to utilize and the visibility in the forest is poor. Even knowing this, I should still be more than capable of suppressing them, and with the aid of everyone else we should be able to defeat them with relative ease.”

...she’s as reliable as ever.

“I’ll tell Elsa about the situation, and you should let Lyanna know so the students don’t panic.”

“Yes, nobody can panic. If they find out we know they’re here, they’ll attack immediately.”

“Understood.”

I began walking over to Elsa as casually as possible.

“Elsa, can I speak to you for a moment?”

I interrupted the chat Sophia and Elsa were having.

“Leo onii-chan, are you still trying to find out about Sophia’s secret?”

“I’m sorry, Sophia, but this is a bit of an emergency.”

“– Gulf?”

The moment I spoke I could see Elsa tense up.

“No, they appear to be bandits. Twelve in total. They have us surrounded.”

“ — Wha-!? ...I understand. I’ll head out with another guard at once. However, if there are in fact twelve of them, I’m not sure we’ll be able to manage on our own.”

“Of course. Alice and I will provide support, but Alice won’t be able to neutralize them all like last time. Be careful.”

“Of course.”

Elsa bowed to us before leaving.

“Onii-chan, what should Sophia do?”

“You need to find somewhere safe to go –”

I cut my words short after I noticed Sophia was holding daggers in both of her hands. I didn't even notice she took them out.

"...hey, Sophia? What are you planning on doing?"

"Well, obviously I'm going to fight too. I've been training with Elsa for a while now, and I'm even able to beat her once out of every three times without even using my ability."

"Seriously?"

Alice and I have continued working hard on our own, but we've never even trained with a sword. Yet, Sophia's already able to defeat Elsa one out of three times....

Sophia is becoming even more amazing without me even noticing....

"Onii-chan?"

"Umm...then, please protect Liz. She's the one most likely to panic and accidentally cause trouble."

With Sophia's ability and her ability with a blade, I can rest assured knowing Liz is safe.

"Alright, I understand. Then — onii-chan, you can't get hurt, okay?"

"Thank you, I'll be careful."

I cautiously moved to thank Sophia. She left to find Liz and I turned in the direction I knew the thieves were.

If their goal is to either capture the students or take their uniforms, then they shouldn't be planning on hurting any of the students. Once the enemies over there show their faces, Alice can take them out with a long range spell. I decided I should go elsewhere to help.

But, the moment I decided to do that —

The bandits all jumped out at once with their bows pointed at us.

Chapter 3-7: A Surprising Talent

The very moment I noticed the bandits, they all fired their arrows towards the gathered students. I thought there was no way they planned on harming the students, and, because of this, I was slow to react.

“— Ku”

I quickly got over my own annoyance at myself and focused all of my efforts to convert the mana in the air into magical power. I sent out a shockwave in the direction of the bandits in front of me to blow back the arrows.

— are the students okay!?

I was only able to stop the attacks in front of me; if there were any bandits behind me, their attacks might’ve got through. I turned around afraid of what I might see. Fortunately, the students were safe.

The arrows had been scattered around in a similar way to how I had dealt with the attack on my side. Alice must have stopped them with her spirit magic.

...they’re safe.

I knew I could count on Alice, but that split-second where I feared the worst was bad for my heart.

More importantly, why are they suddenly attacking with their bows? Are they not trying to capture the students? Or maybe they’re okay with capturing some of the students, even others have to die.

...I’m not sure what their objective is, but I don’t have time to waste thinking about it.

I quickly turned my attention back to the bandits whose attacks I had stopped. They all seemed annoyed that their attacks had been prevented.

If they’re left alone, they’ll just regroup and attack once more. I have to take them out quickly.

Fire — no, that would end badly. Umm...wind? Wind might work. I’m not too

confident in my precision with magic, but if I target their bowstrings I should be able to — cut them!

Now that I've dealt with their bows and they can no longer harm the students, I can focus on taking them out individually —

“Ugyaa!?”

“My arm!? My arm is aaahhhh!?”

“It hurts!”

...huh? Most of the bandits have collapsed to the ground and...what's that about his arm? D...did I accidentally use too much power!?

...w-well, that's fine. These guys were trying to harm us. Protecting myself and the students is my top priority. I need to make sure all of the remaining bandits are completely neutralized.

In other words, I began my assault on the bandits.

I knocked out the bandit that was screaming about his arm with a punch, then quickly kicked one of the collapsed bandits beneath the chin, knocking him out as well. In this manner, I made my way through each of the remaining bandits, knocking them out as I went.

By the way, about their arms — some of the bandits had deep lacerations across their arms. The skin had been ripped open and blood could be seen pouring out. I think I overdid it.

Anyway, I confirmed there were no remaining enemies on my side and turned back to check on Alice and the others.

The majority of the students had grouped up together with Alice standing guard. Of course, Alice had already completely incapacitated all of her enemies.

Elsa was protecting a small group of students that were nearby her when the bandits attacked. She as well had made quick work of the bandits.

However, there were three bandits still fighting with two of the Grances knights. One of the bandits stabbed a knight in his side before slipping past him and running towards a small group of students with Amy trembling among them.

It's a bit farther than I'd like, but I know I can stop him using my spirit magic. I began to concentrate and channel the mana in the air, before noticing another figure rushing to protect the students.

Liz had positioned herself between the bandit and the students, with her sword held out in front of her.

And —

"I-I won't let you hurt them!"

Even if she is a skilled fighter, she's never actually been in a real fight. Liz's voice was clearly trembling.

"L-Liz, what are you doing!? It's too dangerous!?"

"D-Don't worry! I won't let them lay a single finger on you!"

"Liz...."

This is the type of thing that could make the other students trust Liz again. If I just let it go on, it could...no, I'm not sure I feel safe letting Liz fight on her own.

I'm going to position myself so that I can help her the moment she needs it.

And, the next moment —

"I will protect all of you!"

Liz cried out in a magnificent voice while pointing the arm that wasn't holding the sword towards the sky. A second later, a pale light began to emit from Liz like a myriad of fireflies.

...this is a joke, right? Is that light being caused by magic? The amount of light she's putting off is even more intense and covering a larger area than even Alice's magic. I wasn't the only one that noticed how powerful her magic seemed to be — the bandits' faces were all contorted with fear.

Shortly after, a gentle wind began to blow through the forest and caused the hair on the bandits' heads to slightly move, and then...nothing.

...eh? Did nothing happen? Did I miss it?

"— after all, it really was useless!"

What do you mean it's useless!?

"Was that supposed to scare me!?"

The bandit realized that it was safe for him to attack and began to rush Liz. Liz began to panic and I had already lost my concentration after seeing her brilliant display. I won't be able to help her in time.

There's no way that Liz, the clumsy girl that she is, will be able to avoid his attack, and it doesn't seem as if she can use her spirit magic!

I need to start channelling my magic now, but it doesn't seem like the spirit of the wind will be able to respond in time!

What can I do — I don't want Liz to die!

Liz was frozen to the spot in fear as the bandit stood in front of her with his sword raised. Just as the bandit was about to bring his blade down — two silver lines flashed through his body before he crumpled to the ground.

I looked for the source of the silver lines, before spotting Sophia standing there with two daggers in her hands.

Ooooooh, good job, Sophia! I'll make sure to rub her head later. Sophia put away her daggers and turned to me while showing a peace sign. Did she use her ability on me just now?

Recently, Sophia has been really cute — wait, I shouldn't be thinking about that now.

"Liz, are you alright!?"

I quickly ran over to Liz to check on her.

"...Leo? I'm fine. Is everyone else okay?"

I confirmed Liz was fine before turning to look towards the rest of the students. There are many children that are cowering in fear but none of them appears to be injured.

"It's fine; everyone seems to be okay."

"That's good. That's...."

"H-Hey!?"

Liz suddenly started to collapse. I did my best to support her as there was clearly something wrong with her.

“...thank you very much. I’m just not feeling very well.”

“I see....”

That’s a relief.

I’m still worried about the bandits, but my main concern right now is Liz.

I had Elsa deal with the bandits while I turned my focus to Liz. Liz smiled back at me, weakly. A gentle breeze caused her silver hair to move slightly across her face. It’s similar to the breeze I felt before...could this be?

“Is this...your spirit magic, Liz?”

“Eh? Oh...this is definitely my magic. I lose a lot of the power because I take too long to convert the magical power into an actual spell....”

I remember hearing something about that before...but isn’t that a bit strange?

Even Alice is only able to use her converted magical power up to a few seconds after creating it.

But, for some reason, Liz holds all of the power she’s created inside of her for too long before she’s able to cast her spell. The spirit still tries to do what she wishes, but by that time the power is considerably weaker.

“Liz, you’re incredibly talented.”

As I was doubting her ability to use spirit magic, Alice was admiring her.

“What do you mean? Her conversion speed and ability to picture what she wants to happen are amazing, but her conversion efficiency is terrible.”

“Her ability to convert the mana in the air into magical power is amazing. As of now, it may be impossible for her to use it in battle, but it can be used in other ways.”

“...what do you mean?”

“To put it simply, the magical power created by a normal person is nothing more than a cup of water, but Liz’s converted magic is like a sugary amedama.”

(TN: An

[amedama](#) is just a type of Japanese candy)

“An average person’s magic is like a cup of water, but Liz’s magic is like an amedama? Are you trying to say that it won’t be consumed immediately?”

I looked around at my surrounding to see that the leaves of the trees were still being blown around by the gentle breeze Liz created earlier.

“Then, why have I struggled to use spirit magic so much?”

“Your magic is like a small ice chip compared to Liz’s delicious amedama.”

“...”

...a-anyway, I wonder if Liz can use her magic to call on other spirits.

“Hey, Liz, can you use other types of magic besides wind...like maybe freezing something?”

“Eh? Umm...because my power is so low, I don’t think I’d be able to freeze anything. I could probably keep something that’s already frozen from thawing.”

“...then, how long do you think you could keep it cold?”

“I could probably do it for the same length of time that I was able to create wind for before.”

“And that was?”

“At that time...it was probably around three days or so.”

— I’ve found my refrigerator.

...just kidding. I found the Princess of this country and now I’m using her as a substitute fridge? That’s a little much, but I’m sure I can use her magic to keep a container cool for a few days.

So, she can refrigerate the entire carriage and keep any food we need to transport cold for the full trip to Rizelheim.

Chapter 3-8: A Short-Lived Dream

The day following the bandit attack, the school was closed. After finding out some information from the captured bandits, I was worried about the rest of the students.

Using Sophia's ability, we were able to find out that their goal was to capture the students and their uniforms.

Then why did they attack them? According to the captured bandits, they believed they could kill a few to scare the rest of us. They'd end up capturing even more students this way.

There was apparently a man that hired them.

He would pay more based on the number of students brought to him.

In order to capture this man, we set up a trap where he was supposed to meet the bandits.

I don't know if he found out that the people he hired had failed, or he never intended on paying them in the first place, but he never showed up.

So we don't know what his main goal actually was.

Seeing as he tried to hurt our students, he's clearly someone that is hostile towards our family.

There are quite a few people that come to mind when I try to think about who might hold a grudge against us. But there's only one person I can think of that would do something like this.

Patrick. Formerly of the Rodwell family. His parents disowned him after he tried to pick a fight with our family.

I tried to confirm this with the bandits we captured, but the man who hired them kept his face hidden. They were able to confirm that he was around the same height and had a similar speech pattern as Patrick.

I can't be sure, but the chance of it being Patrick is rather high.

Even if the person that hired them didn't know it, they basically sent bandits after a member of the royal family. This problem is too big for just us to handle, so we decided to ask Crane for assistance.

If in fact, Patrick is the culprit, and the Grances family managed to capture him, this would have a negative impact on both the Gramp and Rodwell families.

In other words, if the culprit truly is Patrick, Crane needs to know just as much as we do.

For the time being, it was decided that we first need to increase security around the school. For that reason, I also requested that Eric and Crane send additional knights and soldiers to the school.

So the school has been temporarily closed for the day in order for the new security measures to be implemented — even so, I'm still at the school with Liz.

Apparently, Liz wanted to clean the school.

“♪Lalalala~♪”

This gentle tone filled the otherwise silent classroom. Her angelic voice could easily be mistaken for a famous idol.

Yet, the only person behind me was a young girl.

“Hmm? What is it, Leo? Why are you staring at me?”

“I just feel it's a little regrettable.”

“Why do I feel like you just said something horrible!?”

Her expression was really cute. I think I'm starting to form a bad habit of teasing her. As I laughed to myself, Liz just stared at me.

“...Leo, are you making fun of me again?”

“You really make interesting expressions when you're being teased.”

“And you're actually openly admitting to it!?”

“Well, it's the truth.”

“I-It's not like I wanted you to deny it...it's just, why do you have to tease me?”

Couldn't you just say my voice is pretty?"

"I was just thinking that your singing was beautiful and I could easily believe that there's a famous singer in the room with me."

"Is that so...thank you...very much."

She looked down to hide her embarrassment.

"You really seem to like singing, Liz."

"I do. It's my dream to make everyone smile with my singing."

"Oh...that's quite a dream. But, in a way, haven't you already achieved it? I've heard you've held concerts for hundreds of people before."

"That's true, but...none of them seem truly happy."

Liz appeared lonely as she spoke softly to herself.

I thought back to when we were in Rixelheim. The Princess was singing in the town square, but she was forced to sing from a high balcony in order to keep her safe. The majority of the citizens that came to see her wouldn't even be able to hear her from that high up. In a situation like that, I can understand why not all of them would be happy.

But, if I decide to say that to her, it will only make her mood drop even more. I just decided to tell her that I'm sure her dream will come true someday.

"By the way, have you finally made up with everyone?"

"Well...umm...."

Liz suddenly looked miserable.

"Everyone was happy that you tried to help yesterday, right? I had to leave earlier than you to deal with the bandits, but they must've been."

"No, it's...I was sent to my dorm room and told to get some rest."

"Well, I'm sure it'll be fine once classes resume."

"You think so...?"

Liz looked as if she was about to be overwhelmed by her own anxiety. Her situation with the other students has improved a lot since yesterday. Why does

she seem so depressed?

“...what’s wrong?”

“It’s just that...I finally understand how much trouble I was causing everyone.”

Is that what she’s worried about?

“Up until now, I’ve only been concerned about achieving results, and I never really took the time to understand how everything I was doing affected everyone else.”

“That’s...you were just desperately trying to avoid being forced into a marriage you didn’t want. It can’t be helped.”

I can understand that all too well. When I was confined to that small house, all I could think about was how to win my freedom.

It’s only now that I’ve become free that I’m able to really consider how my actions affect others.

“Thank you for saying that, but after everything that happened yesterday, I realize how hard everyone else has been working...I understand how much trouble I was causing them.”

“I see....”

She’s finally able to see how her actions have troubled the other students. Liz has become depressed after realizing this, but I think it’s a sign that she’s maturing.

“It should be obvious that I shouldn’t be acting however I please, but I wasn’t even able to notice such a simple thing. It’s no wonder everyone hates me.”

“Liz....”

I tried to interject but Liz just showed a slight smile.

“It’s okay, you don’t have to worry about me. It may already be too late, but I’m at least going to try to make things better.”

“– It’s not too late.”

Another voice could be heard in the previously empty classroom. Amy stood at the entrance to the classroom.

“...Amy?”

“I’m sorry, I was listening in on you.”

While saying this, Amy slowly entered the classroom and stood before the confused Liz.

“Thank you for everything you did yesterday. Everyone is okay because you tried to protect us.”

“No, it was my job to protect you all and in the end, I couldn’t do anything. I had to be saved by Sophia....”

“Even so, Liz, you were the one standing there, doing your best to protect us. Thank you for that.”

“Eh, umm...you’re welcome.”

While looking slightly embarrassed, Liz began to brighten up. While Amy did the opposite.

“B-Before, when I said you were annoying....”

“...back then I was really only thinking about myself. I’ve seriously been reflecting on my actions.”

“No, that’s not what I meant...umm, actually, Akane and Trevor told me about your family’s circumstances....”

“Is that so....”

Liz was completely dumbfounded when Amy suddenly bowed her head to Liz.

“I’m sorry! I judged you when I knew nothing about you!”

“...so you can forgive me?”

“I should be the one asking for your forgiveness! If I were told to give up tailoring and become the mistress of some nobleman, I’d probably do exactly what you did!”

...I see. Amy is the daughter of a rich merchant family so she’s able to understand Liz’s feelings better than most. I continued to sit silently as they talked to each other.

I hope this means everyone can accept her now.

We still have about two and a half months until her brother will come to pick her up. We hadn't found anything that she's good at yet, but if we can get everyone else to help, I'm sure we can find something.

— However, the very next day....

It was now lunchtime on the first day back after the break. I was watching Liz speaking with Amy at one of the long desks in the classroom. They seemed to be really getting along well, but —

“Liz, I've come to get you!”

“...O-Onii-sama?”

The crown prince of the country arrived.

Chapter 4-1: Crown Prince Alberto's Intentions

Liz's older brother, along with an older man that appeared to be a servant, and several knights including Elsa, appeared in the classroom.

"...Onii-sama, what are you doing here?"

"I told you. I've come here to take you home."

"But that shouldn't be for another two months."

Liz spoke up in confusion. In response, Crown Prince Alberto laughed.

"Did you actually expect me to wait until that day? You'd obviously just run again."

"T-T-That's not true!"

"Isn't that what led to you fleeing from the castle?"

"R-R-Really? I don't remember."

She's really panicking. I feel like I should say something...but this guy is the prince of this country.

I have to choose my words carefully....

"Now, Liz. You're coming with me."

Wait, please wait! Please, just please give me a little more time!"

"Do you think I'm going to fall for that again? That's exactly what you always do. You try to keep pushing your problems off for as long as you can, ignoring all of your responsibilities."

"Please stop, onii-sama!"

"...stop making it worse than it has to be. Just listen obediently and come home with me."

Crown Prince Alberto tried to grab Liz's hand, but Amy placed herself between them.

"...what do you think you're doing?"

“Stop this already! Can’t you tell Liz doesn’t want this!?”

I stood up at that moment. I was afraid of what Alberto may do and began walking towards Liz.

“...you’re telling me to stop? And who are you to be giving orders to me, Alberto von Rizelheim?”

“...eh? Alberto von Rizelheim, no way...the prince? He’s lying, right...?”

Amy turned to Liz, but Liz just looked down at the ground and remained silent.

Amy’s face turned pale. I guess she’s able to understand now.

“Now that you know, just return to your seat and be quiet. I’ll look past your intrusion this once considering you didn’t know who I am.”

She can’t really do anything. Amy’s face was quickly overcome with fear and she started to back away.

But she only took one step —

Amy was just barely able to keep standing between Liz and Alberto.

“Li...Liz protected me. So —”

This is really bad. For a commoner to confront a member of the royal family, it wouldn’t be out of the question to have her executed.

Thinking this, I quickly interjected myself into their conversation.

“Crown Prince Alberto, please forgive me for my intrusion.”

“And you are?”

“I’m Leo — no, I am Leon Grances. The Earl and head of the Grances family.”

The moment I said this I could hear several people in the classroom begin to quietly whisper.

I would’ve liked to have done this differently, but Alberto has really left me no choice. Although I was the one to interject, I really haven’t thought about what I should say.

I’m desperately trying to think of a solution that benefits everyone.

“Oh? I see, so you’re Leon. Rumours about you have reached even my ears.”

“...rumours?”

I was worried about what kind of rumours he may have heard about me, but Crown Prince Alberto didn’t seem all that interested in the rumours and said, “So, what business do you have with me?”

...what should I do? I only spoke up because I was worried about Amy. I didn’t even have time to think about what I should say to him.

Umm, umm...well, I should first try some meaningless small talk in order to buy myself some time. Besides, we shouldn’t be talking about any serious matters when there are so many students around.

“I have a proposal for you, Crown Prince Alberto.”

“You have my interest. Please, go on.”

“...I’d rather not speak of it here, with so many people watching. Can we continue these talks in my office? Of course, Liselotte-sama will come with us as well.”

“...hmm, alright, that sounds good. Please, show me there.”

I gave Alice the task of explaining the situation to the classroom and left with Alberto, Liz, and the elderly man to the office in the mansion.

This, of course, is, in fact, Claire’s office....she still hasn’t returned from wherever it is she went to.

I would normally rely on her in a situation like this, but....

“So? What did you want to speak with me about? You made me go through the trouble of walking all the way here, so I expect something meaningful.”

Aaah, I’ve made the situation even worse by trying to buy time. No, just calm down.

I took a deep breath and tried to speak in as calm a manner as possible.

“Princess Liselotte doesn’t wish to go home earlier than planned. Is it not possible for you to let her stay as long as you originally promised?”

“...why would I do something like that?”

“Princess Liselotte had trouble understanding the differences between herself and the commoners in class. This led to her being isolated for most of the time she spent here.”

“...oh? Really?”

The Crown Prince turned to ask Liz this. Although she was clearly still terrified, she managed to give him a slight nod.

“It was all my fault. I really didn’t consider everyone else’s feelings, so everyone hated me.”

“...they hated you? That’s surprising to hear.”

Alberto’s eyes widened slightly and he seemed to be thinking.

From what I know, Liz is incredibly popular with almost everyone in Rixelheim. I’m not surprised that he didn’t expect for her to be hated.

“But, if you’re being hated by everyone, wouldn’t it be better for you to return before your bad reputation spreads beyond this school?”

“No, onii-sama. Actually, the other day –”

“– the other day, something happened that allowed the other students to finally be able to understand Princess Liselotte.”

I quickly stopped Liz from speaking and answered Alberto myself.

I’m worried he might think I’m being disrespectful to her, but, even though Liz gave me her approval, I basically used her as a guard and put her in a very dangerous situation. I’d rather Alberto not know anything about that.

That’s why, rather than allowing Liz to continue, I decided to interject.

“That’s right. So I’ve finally been able to speak normally with everyone. If you take me back now, all of the progress I’ve made will be wasted.”

“Are you trying to say you’ll miss those commoners if you leave?”

“Umm...honestly, yes.”

Looking at Crown Prince Alberto’s expression, I believed he might acquiesce... but he unexpectedly turned to face me.

“I’d like to ask you something...why are you supporting Liz? Don’t you think it would be better for you to be on my side?”

“I am the one that formed this school and I have an obligation to protect all of the students here. If Princess Liselotte was forced to leave, I feel like many other students would be negatively affected.”

I don’t want to create a bitter memory in everyone’s life here.

Especially for Alice and Sophia.

“Alright...I understand what you’re saying, but Liz’s identity has now been revealed to the commoners that were in that classroom. Can you guarantee her safety?”

“I...I don’t know if that’s possible, but I will take responsibility for her.”

“You will? You –”

Crown Prince Alberto began to speak, but the elderly gentleman stopped him and whispered something in his ear.

Immediately after hearing his words, Alberto seemed displeased.

“Fine then. You will be responsible for her until the end of this month. At that time, return her safely to me in Rizelheim.”

The end of this month...? The month just began and the trip to Rizelheim will take five days. So that means she can spend another three weeks here.

It will be tough for us to accomplish anything, but...I don’t expect him to give us any more time. At least this way Liz can say goodbye to everyone.

“I understand. I’ll return Princess Liselotte safely at the end of the month.”

“Do you swear on the name of House Grances?”

“Yes. I promise on the name of my family that I will return her.”

“Good. If you break your promise, I expect you to accept responsibility.”

In other words, if I break our promise, he will crush the Grances family.

I also can’t let Liz escape if that’s what she was planning on doing. I don’t really think it’s a good deal for me, but...I can’t turn back now.

I graciously lowered my head to Alberto.

“Liz, do you understand? You will return home at the end of this month. If you wish to escape or hide here, he will be the one to suffer the consequences.”

“...I understand. I’ll definitely return home.”

“As usual, I’m too soft on you.”

Alberto muttered this under his breath.

“Now then, we should be taking our leave. I hope you’ll excuse our sudden intrusion.”

With these surprisingly humble words, Crown Prince Alberto got out of his seat and headed for the door. However, just as he was about to leave, he turned to me.

“There’s one more thing.... I’ve heard about a clothing called ‘Alice Brand’ in this town. I’d like some clothes made personally for me.”

“Clothes? What kind of design were you looking for?”

I was expecting it to be clothing he’d wear on official business, but he requested one of the most popular designs that Alice sells. I was surprised.

“Of course, I’ll pay for the costs. Whatever price you wish, just name it.”

“No, I wouldn’t need you to pay Crown Prince Albert.”

“Are you sure? I’m sure the materials can’t be cheap.”

I told Alberto that it was a gift for listening to my request.

After a maid took his measurements, Crown Prince Alberto left the mansion and rejoined his escort that was waiting for him outside.

I watched them leave before finally turning to face Liz.

“...I’m sorry. You’ll have to return home at the end of this month.”

“No, it’s...it’s fine. I was going to be forced to return home now anyway. Thank you.”

She didn’t seem to be hiding her true feelings. Maybe she really is thankful for the small amount of time I was able to buy her.

However —

“When the end of the month comes, you will return home, right?”

I need to know.

I don't think Liz would try to escape, but if she does, everything I hold dear will be destroyed. I can't remain uncertain.

— And Liz nodded.

“I swear on my name of Liselotte von Rixelheim.”

“...thank you. And sorry for ever doubting you.”

“No, I should be the one apologizing. I've caused you so much trouble, Leo... actually, Leon.”

“Oh, right. Sorry for hiding that this entire time.”

“I don't mind, but...why are you even going to school?”

“How do I say it...it's a hobby?”

“What?”

I scratched my neck and tried to think of a better way of saying it. It's not like I can tell her in my previous life I was never able to go to school.

“Anyway, Liz, your older brother caused more problems than I expected, but he seemed like a decent person. He was surprisingly more receptive than I thought he'd be.”

“Onii-sama is a really good person. He takes really good care of me and hopes to make the world a better place.”

“He really did seem to care for you, but...why is he trying to force you into a marriage you don't want?”

“That's because onii-sama is really enthusiastic about it, but I really can't see him as a member of the opposite sex.”

“That makes sense. Wait...eh? What does that mean?”

“Eh? Umm...didn't I tell you? My fiancé is my brother-in-law, Alberto onii-sama.”

The moment she said this, I finally understood something. Alberto proposed to his half-sister, and Claire told me I could learn a few things from him —

Chapter 4-2: More Sisters

The first thing we decided to do after finishing the discussion with Crown Prince Alberto was to return to the classroom. I'm rather uneasy about how the students will react to us now that our identities have been revealed....

When we finally arrived back in the classroom everyone looked relieved to see us. I guess they were all worried that Alberto may do something to us.

"Liz-sama, you're safe!"

Amy and the rest of the students came running up to Liz the moment they saw her. For a brief moment, I was worried that what Alberto had said was true.

But it seems like they're truly worried about Liz and the fact that she's a princess is a secondary issue.

After Alberto mentioned it, I was genuinely worried how the rest of the students would treat her now that they know she's a princess. But it seems that everyone is able to speak normally with her.

I think that her usual classmates can accept this fact about her, but... the larger student population may not know how to handle it.

Anyway, as I continued to watch this pleasing scene before me, I thought about what we can do with the little time we have left. Liz has around three weeks left that she can spend with her friends. That's enough time for her to give them a proper goodbye. We could even hold a farewell party for her.

But that's not the main issue.

Liz came here to prove to her family that she could survive on her own so that her family would cancel her engagement. I don't see that happening in three weeks time.

But, now that everyone knows the situation could it be possible...?

As I was lost in thought, Amy left Liz and came over to me.

"...did you need something?"

“U-Um, is it true that you’re the Earl of Grances?”

S-So, she’s the first to ask. I was hoping that I’d be overlooked after everyone found out Liz is a princess.

“Is it true?”

“Umm...well, yes, but....”

The moment I answered, the colour in Amy’s eyes changed and she threw herself on me.

“Wai-!?”

I began to panic, but Amy kept herself pressed against me and grabbed onto my hand.

“Leo-kun — no, Leon-sama?”

“Y-Yes?”

“Leon-sama, please make me one of your mistresses!”

“– Whaaaaatttt!?! What’s that supposed to mean!?”

“...well, Leon-sama, you’re going to this school to find a mistress, right?”

N-Now that I think about it, there were rumours like that circulating the school, but I had completely forgotten about it.

But, why would Amy want to be a mistress? Didn’t she just tell me she’d feel disgusted if her family forced her to give up tailoring and become a mistress?

“Amy, I thought you were trying to become a better tailor?”

“That’s exactly why I want this! The Grances family controls the Alice Brand, right!? If it means I’d be able to work with the Alice Brand, I’d do anything!”

This girl. Does she only think about clothing!?

“Hey, Leon-sama? See, I even have small breasts.”

“...so?”

“I’ve heard that you like young boys and girls.”

Are there seriously still rumours that Patrick spread hanging around? I really

won't ever forgive him.

"Whoever told you that was lying."

"Eh, it's a lie? Then...would you like it if I called you onii-sama? Or are the rumours that you're interested in sisters also not true?"

I haven't even heard that rumour. Amy seems well informed.

Are there seriously rumours floating around that the head of the Grances family is only interested in girls that are his sisters...?

"...I'm not going to school in order to find a mistress."

"Eeeeh, no way~"

Amy fell into dismay. Sophia noticed us and approached Amy before placing a hand on her shoulder. A mischievous smile floated across her face.

The moment I saw this I felt uneasy. No, uneasy isn't the right word. Scared would be more appropriate.

"You two seem to be having a fun conversation."

"Sophia-chan? Hmm? Sophia-chan, you've been calling Leo-kun onii-sama since school started, but...Leo-san is actually Leon-sama...."

I guess she noticed.

"W-W-W-Wait a minute, Sophia-chan! You're mistaken! I wasn't trying to steal Leon-sama away from you!"

She began desperately trying to find a way to avoid Sophia's wrath, but Sophia calmly placed both of her hands on Amy's shoulders.

"Do you like Leon onii-chan? Or are you really only interested in Alice Brand?"

She slowly tilted her head from side-to-side causing her short blonde hair to sway back and forth. A small, emotionless smile floated across her face.

To be honest, I'm scared. I'm so scared.

"Eh, umm...well...m-maybe, both?"

"Hmm...I see."

Sophia muttered with an indifferent voice before looking into Amy's eyes.

No, she's really looking at Amy's true feelings.

What will happen? If Sophia begins reaching beneath her skirt I'll have to stop her with all my power. While thinking this, I watched this scene progress.

Unexpectedly, Sophia showed her angelic smile.

"Amy-san, would you like to join my club?"

— Amy was finally able to breathe again, and the surrounding students finally relaxed.

Amy looked as if she were about to collapse before finally answering Sophia.

"Umm...what do you mean?"

"I mean exactly what I said. If you join, you can stay with Leon onii-chan."

"I'll join!"

— an immediate reply!?

"Well then, Amy, from today onward you're a club member."

"Thank you, Sophia-chan!"

The two of them held hands and began hugging.... No, no, no, let's back up a bit. What exactly does this club do? Why does joining this club allow her to stay with me? What kind of club is this!?

"...hey, Sophia? Seriously, what kind of club are you in?"

"I already told you it's a secret."

"No, I deserve to know, right? It seems to involve me a great deal."

If it had nothing to do with me and it wasn't dangerous I wouldn't get involved, but...now I'm concerned.

This club of hers clearly has something to do with me. It's actually making me worried about what she's doing. Therefore, as the concerned party, I have to find out.

"If it involves me, don't you think I have a right to know?"

"Well...it can't be helped. If you want to know so badly, I'll tell you."

Alright — or so I thought. Now that I think about it, there's a chance that Sophia was able to understand everything I just thought. I think this might have affected her decision.

...no, I shouldn't think about it too much. Sophia can't directly read minds. This should be fine.

"So, what kind of club is it?"

"The club I made is called 'Sisters.' It's a club that aims to raise the sister ability of all of its members."

Increase their 'sister ability?' That sounds better than what I was imagining....

"So, what kind of club activities do you do? Stuff like cooking and sewing, right?"

I thought her club sounded more decent than I imagined, but Sophia continued on.

"We study what kind of situations you're weak to, onii-chan. We do gymnastics so we're more limber and — oh, we also study swordsmanship to defeat any enemies that approach onii-chan!"

N-Normally, I'd take that last part to mean they're training to protect me against bandits. But with Sophia involved, couldn't her definition of an enemy be considered less stringent!?

I'd expect her to say something like, "What are you trying to do to Sophia's onii-chan, you thieving cat! Die!"

I'm too afraid to actually say that out loud.

"Don't worry, I'd give them a proper warning the first time."

"So what would you do the second time!?"

She was still reading my mind!?

"...so, how many other members are there?"

Besides me, there's Alice onee-chan, Claire onee-chan, Tina, and Lyanna onee-chan. And as of today, Amy as well."

...I'm all too familiar with those names. Well, I'd be more surprised if there

were names I didn't recognize. How exactly should I react the next time I meet Lyanna and Tina?

I had lowered my gaze to the ground after finding out this shocking information. When I looked up, Liz had joined the small group that had begun to form around me. She was just silently standing there staring at us.

Right, I forgot about her. We only have three weeks left to find some way to help her.

Thinking this, I began to speak — but Liz interrupted me.

“Please, allow me to join Sisters too!”

— what kind of development is this!?

Chapter 4-3: Aiming to End the Engagement

Liz's brother Alberto von Rizelheim, the prince of this country, came to bring her home, but after negotiating with him he allowed her to stay until the end of this month.

But when that deadline comes, Liz must return home and marry her brother. In order to avoid this, we must be able to show some results within the remaining time we have left. We have to accomplish something.

With this being her current situation, Liz began desperately pleading with Sophia to allow her to join her club.

"Then, from today on, Liz is also a member of Sisters."

Correction, Sophia easily accepted her into her club.

...didn't Liz run away from her brother because she didn't want to get married?

As for Sophia's club activities, apparently, they involve polishing each members skills as a sister. However, Liz joining didn't involve her becoming my sister-in-law.

Will it really be okay if Liz and Sophia become friends?

What's most important right now is making sure that the rest of her classmates help Liz. Right now, her close friends should be willing to help, but I feel that the majority of the students still have a negative opinion of her. I don't think we'll be able to do anything without their help.

That's why I stood up from my chair and cleared my throat.

"Everyone, can you listen to me for a moment?"

Liz only has one month left. She hasn't accomplished anything so far and I doubt she will if things continue as they have.

"Liz has been trying many different electives and because of this, some of you have bad opinions of her, but I want you to know that she's not just playing

around.”

I stopped there and looked at the surrounding students.

Has there opinion changed due to everything that’s happened over the past few days? Anyway, everyone seems to be listening with a positive attitude.

“From today on, we need to help Liz avoid being forced into a marriage she doesn’t want. Of course, I don’t plan on forcing you to do this or getting in the way of your studies to accomplish this goal either. We just want you to cooperate with us. So...please.”

I deeply bowed my head causing Liz to panic then quickly follow my action.

A brief moment of silence followed. Then, the faint sound of clapping.

I raised my head to see Alice, Sophia, Akane, Amy, and finally Trevor all clapping.

The applause gradually spread throughout the rest of the classroom.

“Thank you, everyone.”

“Thank you, everyone. And you too, Leon-sama, thank you so much.”

“Now we just need to keep everyone motivated.”

Or Liz will go down the bad route which will also cause Alice and Sophia to have bad memories of their school life. Of course, I would too.

Obviously, I have no plans on abandoning her.

“Hey, hey, nii-sama, of course, we’ll help Liz, but what should we be doing?”

Amy was the first to say something, but...who’s her ‘nii-sama?’ No, of course, it’s me.

“You can just call me Leon. As for what you all should do –”

“Leon nii-sama?”

...why is it that every girl in my life refuses to listen to anything I say? I don’t really have the time to go down that rabbit hole. It would be better if I just kept things moving.

“I thought we could try many different subjects to find what she’s best at, but

now we really don't have the time."

That's hardly any time considering what we need to do. We have to find something Liz is great at within three weeks. If it was that easy everyone in the world would be successful.

"Then, we must find something Liz is suited to soon."

"It's just like Amy said, and I have at least one idea."

"— You do!?"

Liz had begun to look more and more sullen as we talked about her desperate situation, but the moment I spoke she brightened up.

"Please, tell me, Leon onii-sama!"

"You tooooooo!?"

"...what's wrong, Leon onii-sama?"

I can't even say anything after allowing Amy to call me 'Leon nii-sama.' Even if I did, I doubt she'd listen.

Whatever. No matter what she calls me, it's not like we're actually siblings.

"It's you, Liz. Your spirit magic is remarkable. If you use it correctly, there are countless things you can do with it."

"My spirit magic.... Isn't it useless though?"

"That's only in battle. Because of the duration.... Well, first off, how many times a day can you use your magic?"

"Umm...once I've used it, I think I'd have to wait about an hour before trying again."

"I see...."

It's a bit too long, but...she could probably cut that time down with proper training.

The problem now becomes the duration of the spirit magic she casts. She said it can last around three days.

That is beyond exceptional for any spirit magician. However, it would take

around five days to travel from Muhle to Rizelheim. The three days she could keep something frozen won't be enough.

However — and I turned to Akane.

“Hey, what about that transport method your family had come up with?”

Akane showed a wry smile when I suddenly asked her this.

“Thanks for talking about a company secret in public.”

“If you teach it to me, I'll recoup any losses you may suffer.”

“Is that a promise as the Earl of Grances?”

“Yes, but...you don't seem too surprised, Akane.”

“Well...I kind of expected as much.”

“I don't plan on revealing it to any of your competitors.”

“...I understand. I believe you. We had plans to modify a horse-drawn carriage and set up a relay point between Rizelheim and the surrounding cities. We also believe that the highways throughout the country need to be revamped in order for this to be possible. My family really had no idea where to start with this idea.”

“Hmm.”

The carriage shouldn't be a problem. If we design a carriage without showing any self-restraint, I'm sure we could speed up the travelling speed. As for the relay point...I guess that means switching to a fresh horse in a village between Rizelheim and wherever their merchandise would be going. So that would reduce the number of breaks we'd have to give the horse. Again, if it's the Grances family doing it, none of this should be a problem.

So how much can we shorten the travel time....

A carriage should be able to travel around 5-10 kilometres an hour on a normal road in this world. So, let's assume that the carriage can travel at 10 km/h. That means we can travel around 60 kilometres a day if we travel for six hours a day. Rizelheim is around 300 kilometres away, so five days.

However, if we travel along a paved road, we should be able to travel

somewhere between 15 and 18 km/h. If we change horses along the way, we should be able to reduce the time even more. We might be able to bring the travel time down to two days.

Since Liz's magic can last three days, that gives us more than enough time to transport something like ice cream or fish from a port town to Muhle. If we can create a heat-resistant box, my dream of tasting the horn rabbit meat doesn't seem so far off.

The trade throughout the kingdom would be revolutionized.

Still, there are several other issues.

Primarily, asking the princess of this country to act as a refrigerator. I have no other choice but to ask her, but maybe Liz will be willing to accept.

Next, even if Liz accepts that role, she wouldn't be staying in Muhle forever. Once she got married she'd obviously return to Rizelheim, leading to us no longer being able to transport frozen goods.

Finally, this transport method could lead to an enormous profit, however, this method belongs to Akane's family. When considering how much money they'd be able to make from this method, I begin to doubt they'd consider it worthwhile to lose all of those profits just to end Liz's marriage.

— Considering all of that, this doesn't seem like the best solution. If any other options appear I'd happily change plans.

That being said, I don't see any other options right now.

Crown Prince Alberto already knows about Muhle. If any great technological advancements come out of this city, he'll almost assuredly attribute it to me rather than Liz.

But this is different.

I doubt there are many other people in this world that can use spirit magic that can last for three days. Because Liz is one of the only people that can do this, Alberto would have to acknowledge her achievement.

So, after discussing these positives and negatives with her, I asked Liz what she wanted to do.

“You want me to use my spirit magic to transport perishables?”

“Yeah, I know asking the Princess to do something like this is ridiculous.”

“That’s something only I can do?”

“It may be possible to do it if you hire a spirit magician to ride on the carriage....”

I turned to Akane to suggest other possible solutions....

“That would be possible, but not a good solution. If we just hired a mage to ride on the carriage, we’d be losing more money than we would make. Besides, I’m not sure there’s a mage that could even do that.”

“Because of this, it seems that you’re the only one able to do it.”

The method of having one or even more mages travelling with the carriage is inherently flawed. You’d spend more on hiring the mage than you’d make off the products you sell.

“If so, I’d like to do it.”

“Are you sure? Isn’t that type of work beneath a princess?”

“Even if you say ‘princess’, I’m only thirteenth in line to the throne. If you know of something that only I can do, then I’d like to do it.”

Liz didn’t even hesitate. She not only wishes to escape her forced engagement, she also wants to accomplish something that only she can do.

Seeing her like this really makes me want to cheer for her.

“I understand. Now that that’s settled, Akane, will your family’s business cooperate with us?”

“If I were to miss out on an opportunity like this, I wouldn’t be able to call myself a merchant.”

“...you understand that if Liz is forced to return home the entire plan will fall apart?”

“Well...you did say you’d cover any of our losses.”

A playful smile appeared on Akane’s face.

Actually, I do have another transportation method that doesn't require Liz.

We could place mages at each relay point that would refreeze the products along the route.

It's not something we're capable of doing now and it would cost more than using Liz, but it should be possible.

It's much more worthwhile if we can manage to do this with only Liz. For now, I'm keeping this plan a secret.

But Akane...looks like she may be aware of this plan.

In any case, there's a lot of work to be done.

First off, we need to completely redo the highway system throughout the kingdom. Then, we must remodel and mass-produce a new type of carriage. We'll need to develop an insulated container, establish relay points across the country, and create a system to index all cities and villages and each product they produce and all goods they need. Even if all of the students in Muhle help out, there's just so much to do.

No matter how I think about it — even factoring in the Alice cheat — three weeks is just not enough time to do all of this.

So, I either need to find a way to get Crown Prince Alberto on my side or I can appeal to the King. It will be difficult for us to succeed, but there is no other way.

We just have to keep pushing forward.

Chapter 4-4: Important People, Precious Person

Our plan to gain Liz her independence surged forward with a newfound momentum. At the same time, the number of days left for Liz to stay in Muhle rapidly decreased and we now had a little less than a week before Liz's time was up.

...comparing the time we have left with the work we still have to do, I feel like we're not working fast enough.

W-Well, I'll describe what we've come up with so far.

First off, we've decided to build two large basements in the city to store all perishables.

We'll cool these rooms using Alice's magic and then maintain the temperature using Liz. One basement will be used as a freezer, the other a refrigerator.

With this, we'll be able to store any perishables or ice cream for much longer.

Next, our plan to shorten the transportation time.

First, remodelling carriages. We've already begun work on making the carriage a smoother ride by creating rubber tires and adding suspension.

In addition to this, we've been working to reduce the fatigue put on the horse by remodelling the shaft connected to the wheels to reduce the coefficient of friction.

Moreover, we've been rapidly increasing our efforts to remodel the highways between Muhle, the relay points, and Rixelheim.

If everything is completed as planned, the time it takes to reach Rixelheim will be reduced to two days.

— However, a lot can change considering we're mostly still in the planning phase.

Alice and I are using our knowledge from our previous lives to work on the

specifics of our plan, but to everyone else, our entire plan is purely theoretical. So, I'm really not sure if I'll be able to convince the royal family, but I do know we can't finish all of this with the little time Liz still has left. And so, with that thought in mind, we departed to Rizelheim on a horse-drawn carriage.

We departed with little time to spare...it would take us five days to reach Rizelheim. And we'd be arriving with nothing to show.

I was worried we may face some delays. Obstructions in the road, issues with our carriage, or anything that may cost us time, but it seemed I was worried for nothing.

In any case, I need to explain the circumstances to Liz's father, the King.

I hoped to gain an audience with him and tell him our plans. I could show him how useful Liz can be and get him to reconsider her engagement....

However, the moment we arrived at the castle, we were summoned by Crown Prince Alberto.

And that's why we're currently waiting in a meeting room for Alberto.

By the way, Liz and I are the only ones here. Alice and Sophia accompanied us to the castle but were told to wait in another room while we meet with Alberto.

"I'm sorry, Leon onii-sama. I was hoping to be able to speak with my Mother first."

"No, I wasn't expecting to be summoned so quickly, so I'm as much at fault as you. In times like this, I would rely on Claire.... I wonder what she's doing now, or even where she is."

Claire left the Grances territory over a month ago.

Since then, she's been in regular contact with me. However, in every letter she sends me, she mentions that she'll be moving somewhere new so I shouldn't bother writing back. I wonder what she's doing.

Still, whining about Claire not being here won't get anything solved. I decided the best thing to do was wait and find out why Alberto summoned us here. Before long, Alberto entered the room.

"It's been a while, Crown Prince."

“It’s nice seeing you, Onii-sama.”

We stood up and paid our respects to the Crown Prince before retaking our seats.

“It seems that you’ve kept your promise.”

“Of course. I’d never break a promise I made with you, Crown Prince.”

“Hmm, there’s no need for such blatant flattery.... That reminds me, I was pleased with the clothes you sent me.”

“Thank you very much.”

Now that he mentions it, Crown Prince Alberto is currently wearing Alice brand clothing. It’s nothing like the fashion of this world, but...I guess I’ve got used to seeing this type of fashion in Muhle so I didn’t even notice.

“Next, I’d like you to make me clothes that I can wear when on official business. Oh, and I’d like some made for my father as well.”

“I understand. Is that everything.”

“I’d also like a set of clothing made for my mother and each of my siblings. In total, I’d say about twenty sets will do. And, of course, only the finest fabrics will do.”

Silk for twenty sets of clothing. We’ve begun mass-producing silkworms so we should be able to manage.... But, with this, I’ve all but confirmed I’ve taken Wells’ job.

However, I’m already working on fixing this with Amy. Once she graduates, Amy is supposed to work out a deal between Alice brand and Wells’ clothing shop. There may be some issues, but with Amy’s efforts, I’m sure Wells will be able to regain most of his lost customer base.

In any case,

“For twenty sets of clothes, I’d say we need about three months once we have everyone’s measurements.”

That’s too long. You’ll have the job done in two months.”

“...how about this: we’ll send as many completed sets as we can every month.

We'll give this job priority and have the job done in a few months."

"That will work. Please, tell the maid how you'd like the measurements taken."

"Certainly."

I bowed my head.

"Alright, these talks are over. Thank you for returning Liz, we'll be taking our leave."

"Thank you very much — p-please, wait!"

I got caught up in Alberto's pace and panicked as he began to leave. That was close.

"What? Did you have something else you wished to speak to me about?"

"Yes. It's actually the main reason we're here."

I gave Alberto a brief overview of our plan and explained to him how useful Liz could be.

"...I see. I was told that Liz's spirit magic was useless, but you claim to have found a use for it. Is that correct?"

"Yes. If we use Princess Liselotte's spirit magic, we stand to make a huge profit."

"Well, that certainly does sound wonderful."

Alberto turned to Liz with a look of admiration and Liz smiled in response.

I saw this and began to actually think we could persuade Alberto. However, Alberto's gaze suddenly became cold.

"—and? What's your point?"

"Eh? If we use Princess Liselotte's magic, we could make a huge profit."

"I understand that. What I'm asking you is, if the Grances family stands to gain a substantial amount of money from this, what exactly do I get?"

"That's...."

That answer would be nothing.

Of course, people throughout the city will be able to eat a wide variety of foods previously unavailable to them and the economy of the kingdom will benefit from this.

Princess Liselotte will also gain popularity throughout the country. However, Crown Prince Alberto would gain nothing directly.

“...wouldn’t you be happy seeing your sister succeed?”

“If Liz’s magic is what’s required to make this work than there is no need for us to involve the city of Muhle at all. We can send and store all of the perishables from the capital.”

“Gu....”

He picked up on that quicker than I expected.

If I were dealing with another merchant I’d expect that, but I thought the prince of the kingdom wouldn’t have a mind for business.

“Apparently, that seems to be the end of your story. I was expecting more from you, but.... You’ve disappointed me.”

Crown Prince Alberto reached out to grab Liz.

“Liz, I don’t have the type of personality that can be loved by the people like you. That’s why I need you by my side so our people can love their rulers.”

“...O-Onii-sama, I....”

“Didn’t you say you wanted to be my strength ever since we were young? Or were those words nothing but a lie?”

“No, that’s....”

Liz’s deep purple eyes began to waver.

Liz truly loves her brother, but she doesn’t see him as a man. I want to help her; I don’t want her to get married, but I don’t know how to help.

“Your Highness Alberto, please, reconsider.”

I couldn’t even bear to look at Liz. I tried to appeal to Alberto one last time despite the fact that I knew it was pointless.

“My answer will remain the same no matter how many times you ask me.”

“Crown Prince Alberto.”

“You’re persistent. If you have nothing to offer me then remain silent. Or are you going to go against the prince of this country?”

“That’s....”

— I’m in the same situation Amy was in when Alberto first came to the school. At that time, Amy tried her best to protect Liz.

However, if I do the same here, I wouldn’t be exaggerating if I said the Grances territory will be completely crushed. It may lead to me losing everything I care for in this world.

I want to help Liz. But I can’t sacrifice everything else to do so. I don’t know what to do — and my eyes met with Liz.

I thought she’d be suffering more than me, but under her bluish silver hair, she had a somewhat defeated expression.

“Thank you for everything, but this is enough.”

“...Liz?”

“I’m indebted to you for everything you’ve done up until now. So, please...just stop.”

The light seemed to have left Liz’s eyes as she said this.

I can understand even without her saying it. Liz is forcing herself to accept her unwanted marriage in order to not cause me any further problems.

I truly want to help her.

However —

“Leon, you may leave. Ah, Liz will also be needing a dress to wear during the marriage ceremony. Be sure to make her beautiful for me.”

I couldn’t say anything.

I can’t risk the happiness of everyone else just to save one person.

I began to give up any hope I had of saving Liz —

“Crown Prince Alberto, will you stop harassing my otouto-kun.”

Claire’s voice — a voice that shouldn’t be here — resounded in the meeting room.

Chapter 4-5: In the Palm of His Hand

“Claire...what are you doing here?”

“Oh, didn’t I tell you I had some things to take care of as acting Earl?”

“You did, but...that involved you visiting the castle?”

“At first, I visited the Marquis of Gramp. Then, I spoke with other members of the royal family.”

“...the Marquis of Gramp and the royal family?”

Did she just now show herself once Liz and I had lost hope? No, she said she was meeting with the royal family so she probably spoke with Alberto before us.

I looked at Alberto and he responded with a wink.... Wow. Claire is incredibly reliable.

“Now then, Crown Prince Alberto, will you stop harassing my otouto-kun?”

“What are you saying? This only happened because your brother is so unreliable.”

“It’s because he can be unreliable at times that makes me want to protect him. I figured you’d be able to understand that better than most, Crown Prince Alberto.”

I’m guessing she’s talking about Liz. After feeling Claire’s intense gaze, Alberto hung his head.

— Really, I should be telling Claire I’m sorry I made her want to protect me because I’m unreliable.

...no, I’m just a human; I make mistakes. I believed Claire thought of me as a reliable brother, and back when we were at the mansion I proved to her I can be reliable so....I just feel like our positions have changed.

While thinking about this, the conversation between the two of them continued.

“So, Crown Prince Alberto, please cancel your initial plans of marrying Princess Liselotte.”

“And this would benefit me?”

“Yes, you stand to benefit from this as much as Liz.”

“Your brother has already shown that he has nothing worthwhile to offer me.”

“Yes, that may be the case. However, I’ve confirmed with his cute little sister in the other room that Liz has become more than a little interested in him.”

“What did you say....”

Suddenly, Alberto’s eyes stabbed into me like daggers. If a look could kill I’d be lying dead on the floor right now.

...umm, what? The ‘cute little sister’ must be Sophia, but what was that about Liz?

As I was still trying to understand her meaning, Alberto grabbed hold of my collar and pressed his face close to mine.

“Oi, what did you do to Liz!?”

“W-What do you mean...?”

I made her realize she’s a clumsy girl and exposed her to danger when I had her guard the students....

I casually averted my eyes.

“You bastard!”

“Wait, Alberto onii-sama! What are you going to do to Leon onii-sama!?”

After Liz raised her voice, the room fell silent. Hearing this, Alberto slowly turned to face Liz with an incredulous look on his face.

“L-Liz? Did you just call this guy o-onii-sama...?”

“Eh, that’s...umm.... Wh-Why would I call Leon onii-sama ‘onii-sama!?’ ”

...that was a horrendous attempt at lying. I let my head hang in defeat.

I stole the Crown Prince’s fiancée — I wanted to say something, but I couldn’t

think of anything that would fix the situation. I was seriously worried that he'd kill me, but it wasn't anger that left Alberto's mouth. Instead, a deep sigh was all that could be heard.

Crown Prince Alberto turned his gaze to Claire.

"...I don't want to accept it but Liz seems to have chosen your brother."

"Are you satisfied?"

"Yes, I'll agree to your plan."

I didn't understand his meaning, but a pit of despair began to form inside me.

Honestly, I want to grab Claire's arm and run away from this place.... I feel horrible seeing these two together.

"Well, otouto-kun, I've made all the preparations. Everything else is up to you."

"...it's up to me?"

"Otouto-kun, you have to decide whether you're ready to grant Liselotte her wish."

"I already made my mind up about that."

At first, it was just Alice, Sophia, and Claire; but it's not just them anymore. Liz is trying her best to live the life she wants to live.

If there's something I can do to help her, I want to do it.

"Is that truly how you feel?"

"Yes. There's nothing else for me to say. I'll do whatever I can."

"Okay. Then — add Princess Liselotte to your harem."

"What!? ...what are you saying?"

I immediately responded to Claire with shock, but there was something strange about the way Claire spoke.

"Do you know why Crown Prince Alberto wanted to marry Princess Liselotte?"

"Umm...he wanted to use her popularity with the people to his advantage."

“Correct. However, if he just wanted to use her for her popularity, he wouldn’t need to marry her. They’re already well known for being close siblings.”

“Now that I think about it....”

Claire told me Liz was loved by the first prince, and Liz herself said she was close with her brother.

“So, why did you try to marry Princess Liselotte?”

Liz asked this question of Alberto. To be honest, I don’t understand the point she’s trying to make.

“Of course it would be easy to gain popularity with the people by marrying Liz. However, at the same time, I realized that Liz was becoming unhappy.”

“So why would you....”

“Do you really not understand? Do you really think it was a coincidence that Liz just happened to end up at the school you manage?”

“...well, she was told about our school by Wells and Crane helped her escape to Muhle.”

“Ha!”

In response to my words, Alberto let out a sharp laugh. What is he trying to tell me?

Claire attempted to help me understand.

“Why do you think the Marquis of Gramp would help the princess run away? Do you really think the Marquis would do something so dangerous that could have even lead to his family’s collapse if he wouldn’t stand to gain anything from it?

“Are you trying to say Crane wasn’t the one that helped her escape? But he asked for my assistance directly.”

“You’re focusing on the wrong part. The Marquis of Gramp knew there was no danger and that he could profit from the situation. So he sent Liselotte to us.”

“That’s...impossible.”

I turned to Alberto as he nodded to confirm her story.

“That’s right. I ordered Wells to mention the rumours about your school to Liz, hoping she’d feel motivated to improve herself. And it wasn’t Liz that asked the Marquis for help, I instructed him to do so. I told him that if Liz asked him to take her to the school in Muhle, he should cooperate.”

“W-Why would you do something like that?”

“Isn’t it obvious? Liz would be staying in the Grances family’s territory. My fiancée would be under your protection. How would that look to the world?”

“...like the Earl of Grances and Crown Prince Alberto are allies.”

“That was part one. I then planned on negotiating with you to gain some of your technology in exchange for breaking off my engagement to Liz, but...she became more attached to you than I expected. So, I needed to modify my plan slightly.”

“...s-seriously?”

From the very beginning, I was playing right into Alberto’s hand.

“And so, Leon, I plan on giving Liz to you.”

“—Wa-Wait, I already have Alice, Claire, and Sophia!”

“...if you already have three people, one more shouldn’t be a problem.”

Uwaa, I can’t even refute that!

No, wait, for sure, increasing three people to four isn’t a big difference. However, those three might be opposed to adding one more.

Claire is...well, she clearly isn’t opposed to the idea. But Sophia...was the one that started Sisters and invited Liz to join. However, Alice...told me there’s no problem being with an adopted sister.

...eh? I don’t think any of them would be against the idea.

No, no, no, everyone else might be okay with it but I’m not.

Certainly, I was prepared to accept not only Alice but also Sophia and Claire.

But that doesn't mean I should just accept every girl.

As I was fighting with myself internally, Alberto laughed.

"You don't need to look so troubled. It was a joke."

"...eh? Which part?"

"About you marrying Liz. I'm not going to lie, just picturing Liz marrying you makes me angry. What Claire proposed was making Liz your sister."

"...and how is that different than marriage?"

The moment I said this, Alberto looked puzzled.

"What are you saying? Marrying her isn't the same as making her your sister."

"...eh!? O-Of course not!"

Alice really is poisoning my mind. I seriously thought for Liz to become my sister I'd have to marry her.

...but, isn't this fine? If he just wants her to be my adopted sister....

I don't mind that idea....

"I'm just going to ask you this upfront, Crown Prince Alberto, what else are you planning?"

"I'm not plotting anything. I just wish to use this relationship of ours to gain some renown with the people. Don't worry. I've already spoken with Claire."

"Claire?"

I looked at Claire to see her showing a big smile.

Well, if Claire is okay with it, I feel better trusting him.

In fact, I don't really see any alternative.

"I understand. If you'll allow it, Princess Liselotte will become my adopted sister."

"Leon onii-sama, are you okay with that?"

"Of course, as long as you don't hate the idea."

"Of course not! Thank you so much, Leon onii-sama!"

Liz stood up from her seat and jumped into my arms. Immediately after that, I heard a loud crash as if someone slammed their fist into a table.

“...oi, Leon? Since Liz will be your sister, doesn’t that make me your older brother?”

“Eh? No, isn’t that a little different...?”

“Sorry, I didn’t hear that! Why don’t you come practice your swordsmanship with your new brother! Now, get away from Liz and come with me to the courtyard!”

“Eeehhh!?”

I was unable to resist Alberto as he dragged me away from Liz. I was taken out into the courtyard and forced to spar against Alberto until sunset.

Sophia watched our fights and decided that Alberto was an enemy of her onii-chan. She was the clear victor in her fight against Alberto.

Chapter 4-6: Liz's Dream

Liz's problem had been solved, but, as a result of that, I could no longer live a peaceful school life.

...well, if I had to say whether or not my life was peaceful, I'd say it was. A better word to describe it may be busy. Since returning from the capital, I've been focused on setting up a distribution line for the products leaving Muhle and trying to figure out how to create a highway system between the capital and here.

Actually, that's also become more difficult. The Crown Prince told me, "While you're at it, you might as well redo the highway system throughout the entire country."

In the end, the story that spread through the kingdom was about the Crown Prince hiring the Earl of Grances to revolutionize the highway system in the country.

Normally, I'd be pretty annoyed if the prince was given all the credit for coming up with this idea, but...I think I'm okay with it.

This is mainly due to the fact that the prince has promised that the kingdom will cover all expenses needed to complete this project.

They're providing a large number of funds to complete a project I wanted to do anyway. Besides, I'm pretty sure if a single earl were to try to complete this project, they'd go bankrupt.

In any case, the Grances family accepted the somewhat unreasonable request of Crown Prince Alberto and accepted Princess Liselotte into the family as an adopted daughter.

It seems that this new partnership has caused rumours about our two families to flow through the kingdom.

To be honest, the Crown Prince seems like a very capable person, so I'd like to continue working with him. Because I still don't know enough about this country, Claire has been responsible for discussing any future plans.

Anyway, the days flew by as we continued our work. Until six months had passed and it was now March.

The city of Muhle held a festival that was in celebration of the student's graduation.

Up until last year, a party would just be held in the school for graduation. However, considering the number of students we now have and the fact that they've come from all over the kingdom, it was decided that it should be held in the city.

Well, the festival I attended in Rizelheim also had an impact on my decision. So, I asked for Liz's input on the festival.

By the way, since there are no watches in this world, you just have to use your own judgement to determine the time. However, I have noticed that the days feel longer in this world. I'd say one hour in this world is equal to two hours on Earth.

Anyway, I was looking around at all of the street stalls as I walked through the city with Milli.

"It's been a while since we've gone out together like this, Milli."

"That's because you're always busy. Isn't that right, Leon?"

"Yeah, I'd like to relax a little more. Wait, weren't you just as busy teaching at the school?"

"That's true. I spent most of my day at the school, but next year the number of teachers will increase and I can go back to being your caretaker."

"Caretaker...? Didn't I say I'd take care of you now?"

"I prefer it the other way round."

"Well if that's what you want I won't complain."

We continued walking around, checking out the occasional stall. After some time, someone suddenly called out my name.

"Oh, is that Leon-sama?"

Turning back to see who was talking, I saw Lyanna wearing all Alice brand

clothing standing there. I looked around to see who she was with but there was nobody else there.

“Did you come here alone?”

“I came with Aisha but we got separated.”

....Aisha, huh. I’m sure she’s heard about what happened with Crown Prince Alberto and how my identity was revealed. She treated me like a child when we first met. I wonder how she’d react now.

“What about you, Leon-sama? Are you here alone?”

“No, I’m with....”

When I looked back to introduce Milli, she was nowhere to be found. Did she leave thinking I wanted to spend time alone with Lyanna?

We’re not even in that type of relationship.

“Leon-sama?”

“No, I just wanted to kill some time while I waited for the event to start in the square.”

“Oh, the one with Liz-sama. It seems like that’s become a hot topic in town.”

“That’s because Alice has been hard at work making this a big event.”

Because the majority of the population is illiterate, we couldn’t promote this festival using flyers or anything like that. However, at many shops in town, we’ve had people spreading the news about it by word of mouth.

It would be impossible for someone to have visited Muhle and not know about the festival.

As I was lost in thought, Lyanna’s face was suddenly close to me.

“...Lyanna?”

“Umm, Leon-sama? Y-You are alone, right?”

“Yeah, I’m free until that event starts.”

“If so, do you want.... Would you like to walk around with me?”

Lyanna began to blush and her voice faded away as she finished her question.

Lyanna is eighteen this year. When I first met her, she was a rough country girl. Now, she's turned into a beautiful noblewoman that gets embarrassed asking someone to walk around with her.

I shouldn't overthink the situation.... Lyanna has pushed herself to ask me this so I should give her a proper response. Besides, I think it would be fun to walk around and visit the stalls with her.

"Ah~ Lyanna Senpai, I finally found you."

I could hear a familiar voice coming from behind us. I turned around to see Aisha happily running towards Lyanna.

"A-Aisha? — Where did you go? I looked everywhere for you."

"What are you talking about? You suddenly took off running and left me alone. I had a hard time finding you."

"T-T-That's not what happened!"

Lyanna began panicking.

Did she see me and come chasing after me? That seems to be the case. Although I smiled unintentionally, I turned away, pretending not to notice, and tried to leave.

But Aisha spotted me.

"Oh, is that Leo-kun — no, Leon-sama?"

"I'm fine with you calling me Leo."

"I can't do that. You're the one responsible for all of this."

Aisha motioned to all of the buildings surrounding us.

"Anyway, why are you two together.... Oh, am I in the way?"

" — It's nothing like that! Isn't that right, Leon-sama!?"

"S-Sure."

"See!? We just happened to bump into each other. We should be going now, Aisha. Leon-sama, we'll be leaving."

"Ah, right."

I thought for a moment the three of us would continue walking around, but Lyanna pushed passed me and dragged Aisha away by her arm.

Then, for a while, I got to enjoy some time alone. I enjoyed the sites and watched as people walked around with their friends and families. I was getting ready to head to the town square when I heard someone else call out to me.

“Your festival seems to be quite the success.”

“That’s because everybody is doing their best to make it a success — wait, why are you here!?”

Crown Prince Alberto was standing before me.

What is he doing here!? We didn’t send a letter asking him to attend or even let him know the festival was happening.

“W-What are you doing here, Crown Prince Alberto?”

“I wanted to see the festival.”

— He somehow got information about the festival. Anyway, I don’t want to deal with him right now. I need to make my escape.

“W-Well, since you travelled so far, I hope you can fully enjoy our festival. I’d like to recommend a nearby café; it’s loved by all of the locals. Now, if you may excuse me, I have some important matters to attend to.”

I turned to walk away as fast as possible.

“— wait.”

But I was stopped.

“W-What do you need?”

“Isn’t there a concert being held in the town square soon?”

How does he also know about that!? I screamed out in my mind but tried to keep a calm expression.

“I-I-I-I’m not sure what you’re talking about.”

“Liz’s concert. I’ve heard you’re going to use her spirit magic to carry her voice out to everyone in attendance.”

“O-Oh, that concert! I’m pretty sure that’s the day after tomorrow!”

“Even though the festival is today?”

...it’s no good. I don’t think I can avoid this.

“Oh, that’s true, isn’t it? So I’m sure you’ll be going to see it. There are special seats set aside for VIPs such as yourself. Just give them this card at the event and they’ll show you to your seat. I really need to be leaving now.”

I tried to hand him the card and make my escape, but Alberto grabbed my arm instead.

“Leon, you wouldn’t possibly consider skipping my cute little sister’s concert, would you?”

“...of course not.”

Like this, I was forced to attend the concert with Crown Prince Alberto.

We arrived at the large plaza in the centre of Muhle. A special stage had been built just for Liz’s event.

“Will Liz be singing on that stage? It’s awfully close to the crowd. Are you sure she’ll be safe?”

“We have guards positioned around the stage and Alice and Sophia will be accompanying Liz.”

“Sophia...that girl.”

Alberto looked insulted after just hearing Sophia’s name.

I’m sure he’s still traumatized by being so easily defeated by her. I think her ability is recovering, but her fighting ability has been developing even faster.

Well, that’s why it’s fitting for her to be a guard.

With those two with her, there’s no human on this planet that could harm Liz. If I don’t want to be executed that better be the case.

“Oh, it’s otouto-kun and... Crown Prince Alberto!?”

Claire, who I’m sure came to attend Liz’s concert, was surprised to see Alberto with me.

“Wait a minute. Otouto-kun, what is Alberto doing here?”

Claire brought her face close to mine and said this.

“I’d like to know the same thing.”

I whispered back to her.

“...don’t you understand how serious this is? He’ll kill you once he sees Liz!”

“I know that. I’ve been trying to get away from him since we first met.”

“Alright. Here’s what we’ll do: I’ll escape first and you can find a way to escape after.”

“...eh?”

Claire turned to Alberto and said, “I have to ensure that the stage is completely safe but, please, enjoy the concert,” before making her escape.

She’s so sneaky!

I considered following after her, but before I could move, the crowd erupted in a grand applause.

Three people walked onto the stage — I’m too late.

All three of them were wearing beautifully designed dresses.

“Everyone! Thank you for coming to my concert! I hope you’re all having a great time at the festival!”

Liz waved out to the crowd. The dress she was wearing mirrored that of those worn by idols in Japan. It emphasized her already large chest and had a mini skirt that was shorter than the skirt of the school uniform. It exposed a lot of skin.

Her skirt is also inscribed with the same laser effect that the school uniforms have so there shouldn’t be any issue with the crowd seeing up her skirt. However, due to the inscription on my own uniform, I’m able to see underneath it.

...it’s a very bold outfit.

“And we’ll be accompanying her~! I’m Alice~”

“And I’m Sophia~!”

Alice and Sophia were wearing gothic-style dresses that somewhat resembled the school uniform. When they introduced themselves, they posed back-to-back and strummed on their respective lutes.

At the same time, throughout the square, you could hear the sound of the lute playing as if it was right next to you.

“Well then, everyone, let’s go –!”

Liz jumped in the air and began singing while being accompanied by the other two. The sound of her voice was being amplified perfectly by the spirit magic. The quality of it could even be compared to a concert held in modern day Japan.

However –

“Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha-!?”

In response to his sister’s revealing appearance...Alberto was left speechless. Well, he’s trying to communicate by only saying, “Wha.”

“– Oi, Leon. What exactly is this?”

“As you can see, it’s Liz’s show.”

“What kind of show requires my cute little sister to wear such revealing clothes!?”

“Crown Prince Alberto, Liz has been looking forward to this concert for some time now. If you don’t keep your voice down you may ruin it for her.”

“Mugu!?”

Alberto panicked and quickly covered his mouth. I took this opportunity in his moment of panic to escape.

Then, in my mind, I congratulated Liz for finally living out her dream. I escaped from Alberto into the crowd and cheered her on.

Epilogue: Leon's Determination

Liz was able to use her spirit magic to aid our distribution line and hold concerts for everyone to enjoy. Not only had she found something only she was able to do, she was also able to entertain everyone that attended her concerts.

I can confidently say that Liz's dream has come true.

Sophia has continued improving herself and her circle of friends is growing as well. Not only was Claire finally able to display how skilled she is, she was able to show this to members of the royal family. Everyone is slowly beginning to achieve the goal of living freely and becoming happy.

But my original plan of allowing Alice to live a normal school life has failed.

In order to protect Liz, I needed Alice's assistance and her normal school life ended.

But that doesn't mean I've forgotten my original goal.

Even though this happened because I wanted to help another girl, Alice never complained. Alice has already confessed her feelings to me, so I think it's about time I give her my answer.

So, with this feeling in mind, I called Alice to the back of the school after Liz's concert had ended.

I awaited her under the tree of legend.

I was feeling nervous as I waited for her. It wasn't too long before I could hear footsteps fast approaching me.

"...haa..haa...I'm sorry for making you wait."

Under the tree of legend, with the light from the setting sun behind her giving her an angelic glow, Alice stood with her cherry blossom coloured hair gently blowing in the breeze.

I guess she ran here from the stage. She was still wearing her stage costume and she was breathing heavily. Even knowing this, I doubt this is the reason her

cheeks are so red.

“Leon, why did you call me out here...?”

I remained silent as I stared back into her face. When we first met I had to look up to look her in the eyes, but now, our eyes are at the same level. I actually have to look down slightly.

I silently stretched my arm out to remove her hair ornament.

Her eyes changed back to their normal heterochromatic appearance. Her blue and gold eyes looked confused as she looked back at me.

I looked at her and said —

“I like you, Alice. Ever since we met in this world, I’ve always felt like this.”

I wanted to be as straightforward as possible. There’s no need for me to hide my feelings.

“...Le...on... Really?”

Alice’s eyes opened wide in surprise.

“I wouldn’t joke about something like this.”

“...but in our past lives I was your sister.”

“That doesn’t matter here.”

We’re not related by blood in this world. Besides, even if she were, I’m not sure I’d be able to resist my feelings for her.

“That may be true, but...are you really okay with it? I’m an elf. Even once you’ve grown to be an old man, I’ll still look much younger than you.”

“I feel like I should be the one asking you that.”

I can’t really describe the pain I felt when I first lost my parents and then Saya. No matter who you are the grief you feel after losing a loved one is like nothing else.

And I don’t want to be the one that causes Alice this pain. At least not without her understanding that this is our fate if we decide to be together.

“I will almost certainly die before you and leave you alone. Are you really okay

with that?”

“There’s no way I’d be okay with that. Just thinking about the fact that you’ll die in the future makes me want to cry.”

Alice’s face was distorted with a mixture of pain and fear.

“If that’s the case, then –”

She should try to find another elf that will live as long as her. I tried to say this but Alice quickly closed the distance between us and kissed me to stop me from saying anything more.

The kiss only lasted a short moment before Alice pulled back.

“... Alice?”

“Leon, you — Yuya nii-san, you stayed by my side when I was bedridden. Until the day I died, you were right there by me. I’ll be by your side until the day comes when we can no longer be together.”

“...I...I see.”

I’m glad she wants to stay by my side.

But at the same time, I’m sure the life of a human must be insignificant to an elf like Alice.

I mean, Alice hasn’t changed a bit since we met all those years ago. Elves look like young boys or girl for the first ten years of their lives. Once they reach their teens, they’ll remain looking as they do for hundreds of years.

The short-lived life of a human is probably comparable to a small animal.

...no matter when I die, I should do my best to create a life for Alice that will help alleviate the pain she’ll feel.

Ah, just by thinking about that day, I can feel tears starting to form.

Even if I’ll die before Alice, that day should be decades away. I can’t keep worrying about when that day will arrive. I should just try to make the time we have together as memorable as possible.

“Alice, will you stay with me?”

“...yes. I love you, Leon.”

“Yeah, me too.”

We kissed once more before Alice moved back and showed a mischievous smile.

“Then — does that mean you’re only going to see me from now on?”

“Of course I — wait, are you happy about that?”

To Alice’s somewhat unfair question, I asked her one of my own.

“Of course not. I’d never be happy if the other girls were sad, but, at the same time, I want to be the only one you’re seeing. A girl’s heart is complicated.”

I understand that feeling.

“I like you Alice but I can’t just abandon Claire and Sophia. It’s impossible for me to only be with you.”

“That’s a terrible thing to say....”

Alice let out a big sigh.

“I know. But those are my true feelings and I’m not going to hide them.”

Alice encouraged the feelings both Claire and Sophia had developed for me. And now that Alice has accomplished her main goal, they’re no longer needed — I could never say something like that to them.

I don’t know exactly how I should face those two but I can’t make any decisions without first considering them.

“Even so, Alice —”

“I still love you, Leon. I loved you even in our previous lives.”

I looked into her unwavering eyes and I could tell how serious her feelings were. I also need to show how serious I am.

“I’ll tell you once more. I love you, Alice. I can’t only be with you, but the feelings I have for you are real. That’s why —”

I cut my words there and pulled Alice’s body close to mine.

“Let’s become happy together. Please, stay with me forever.”

“Nothing would make me happier.”

Under the tree of legend, bathed in the light of the setting sun, we sealed our oath with a kiss.

Extra: Claire Ridill's Character Summaries!

Alright, this will be the third time I'm introducing characters that have become series regulars. And, of course, I'm Claire Ridill. I'll be giving some brief summaries of each character in the series and adding in some behind-the-scenes stories as well.

As always, there are some spoilers for Volume 3, so be careful if you haven't read it already.

[Leon Grances] Name in previous life: [Yuya Amemiya]

The first person I'll introduce is my otouto-kun.

He finally, finally confessed to Alice. Alice was gifted to otouto-kun on his ninth birthday. Otouto-kun is fifteen years and nine months old at the end of Volume 3, so...it took him almost seven years.

He finally accomplished it nearly twenty years after being reborn into this world.

I'm a little envious, but...I'm also happy. Alice is my best friend and I wanted them to be together.

I just wish otouto-kun could be more honest about his desires.

[Alistair] Name in previous life: [Saya Amemiya]

Alice, aka 'The Alice Cheat.' She's also known for her amazing spirit magic that's exceptional for even a high elf.

This volume showed a little more of her phenomenal combat ability.

Her underbust size is 65 and her bust size is 85. She wears an E cup.

— It might sound strange pointing that out, but there seems to have been some confusion about it. Actually, the author originally wrote the size as 88 E but that was incorrect. So I felt the need to correct their error.

As a side note to that story, honestly, the author seems really confused about her bust size. In reality, a size C or D bust size would be rather large.

But looking at the recent illustrations, Alice seems to have an E or even an F cup. That's why I decided to, hopefully, clarify things here.

Ultimately, the author seems to have settled on an E cup. The reason the author gave for this is, 'it's a more defining characteristic.'

[Claire Ridill Grances]

Me. The only one of the heroines that didn't have her bust size revealed. Do you think I'll lose to Alice? She is a tough opponent.

Even though I'm now seventeen years old, I still plan on growing a little more.

In this volume.... How should I put it? I found out about Alberto's plan from the Marquis of Gramp and eventually confronted Alberto himself. I did my best to negotiate with Alberto and protect otouto-kun.... Did I work hard enough?

Nevertheless, because of this, I wasn't able to spend much time with otouto-kun and, inevitably, I lost some ground on the other heroines.

Well, if my brother is happy so am I.

[Sophia Sfir]

Sophia-chan. This girl...she's truly amazing. She has a D cup even though she's not even thirteen years old. Not to mention how slim the rest of her body is.... She's the exact definition of a big breasted loli.

Well, I think that's enough talking about her chest size. Sophia-chan will be the main heroine of Volume 4.

Due to everything that happened to her family, she became unable to use her ability as effectively. She's been gradually recovering since then.

She'll use her ability more in Volume 4 and appear more as well. Anyone that loves Sophia-chan can look forward to Volume 4.

[Milli]

Otouto-kun's mother. Because of her work at the school, she didn't appear much in Volume 3. Well, now that the school year has ended she seems to have returned to taking care of him.

Don't worry, Milli and otouto-kun are still on good terms with each other.

Otouto-kun lost his mother in his previous life, so his desire to have a close relationship with Milli might be because of that.

[Michelle]

She's like a mother to me. Recently, she no longer felt the need to support her sister, Tina, any more and began to focus more on teaching at the school.

She told me she won't focus on her own personal life until I'm happily married, but I just want her to be happy.

The fact that she plans on waiting until I get married just puts even more pressure on me.

[Tina]

Michelle's sister and my current assistant. Whenever I'm out of the office, she handles any official business concerning the people of the Grances territory.

When I first took over as acting earl of the Grances family, the majority of the citizens were struggling so much that they felt the need to sell their own children into slavery. Tina hasn't had to deal with anything that serious just yet.

[Mary]

Someone that most of you probably forgot about. A maid that was assigned to take care of otouto-kun when he was still locked away. I haven't spoken to her recently but I've been told she's working hard at the mansion.

Anyway, there are no plans for her to reappear as of now.

Although, wouldn't it be funny if she was incredibly talkative in private? At least that's how I feel.

[Lyanna]

This girl. Don't you think she's the most unfortunate out of all the heroines? Even if she's just a sub-heroine, it's painful to see her interact with otouto-kun.

I wonder if the day will ever come when her love will be returned....

[Elsa]

She's the captain of the knights and otouto-kun's guard...or at least she's supposed to be.

Due to that position, she only really appears when otouto-kun is likely to be attacked.... Her appearing leads to otouto-kun being attacked... It's quite the conundrum.

[Aisha]

A girl that treated otouto-kun like a child when she first met him. Although, that was because she didn't know his true identity.

She's not actually supposed to appear in the series again, but if the author comes up with an idea for her she may return.

[Crane Gramp]

The Marquis of the Gramp territory. He is a man that's obsessed with big breasted lolis.

We were only able to accept a limited number of students from his territory, so we've been discussing plans to open schools in several other territories. The first of these was established in the Marquis' territory.

...everyone, expect great things to happen in Volume 4.

[Patrick Rodwell]

Otouto-kun actually wanted it to be possible to reform him, but...this guy was too far gone. He actually tried to kill students of Muhle Academy.

This attack formed from an idea the author had. The students were just openly wearing such expensive clothing so it only made sense that thieves or bandits would look for an opportunity to steal the uniforms. In actuality, Patrick didn't even need to be the mastermind behind this attack.

But the author decided to give him reasons to be the mastermind. In that sense, you could probably consider Patrick a victim of this attack as well.

[Trevor Relic]

Although it was only briefly mentioned that he is a noble, he's actually the second son of the Relic family.

He's the same age as otouto-kun and was living a life similar to Leon's childhood before becoming a student at Muhle Academy. It seems his reasons

for coming to Muhle Academy are to open up his options for the future and to find a cute girlfriend.

Well...I'm not sure one of those is possible.

He will appear again in the fifth volume.

[Liselotte von Rixelheim]

The princess of Rixelheim. She's the thirteenth in line to the throne.

To describe her in as few words as possible, big-breasted loli.

I was surprised when the Marquis of Gramp asked me to help a girl named Liz. Of course, Liz is Princess Liselotte's nickname. It wasn't hard for me to figure out who she was.

A majority of Volume 3 was focused on setting her up as a new heroine. As of Volume 4, she will continue to be active as a sub-heroine.

The author originally intended for her to be a shy yet elegant young lady. I wonder how she turned into the clumsy girl she became.

Based on events that have yet to happen in the series, this character change may actually be more fitting.

[Alberto von Rixelheim]

The first prince of Rixelheim. He's the next in line to succeed the throne.

To describe him simply, a talented siscon. Not much more is needed to describe him.

When he first appeared, many readers misunderstood that he was the same as Patrick. Actually, in the original plot, that wasn't too far from the truth.

In the original plot, he was third in line to the throne and wished to use his marriage with Liz to succeed to the throne.

[Wells]

Owner of Wells' Clothing Shop.

He can't possibly compete against Alice brand clothing, but his passion for clothing is real. His daughter, Amy, has now graduated from Muhle Academy

and is hoping to improve her family's business in the near future.

[Amy]

A girl around the same age as otouto-kun.

She only thinks about clothes. She only wished to join otouto-kun's harem because of his connection to Alice brand clothing and Sophia easily accepted her.

Although, based on the information that was given to me, she was seen gazing longingly at otouto-kun....but that's just what I've been told.

[Akane]

She's one year younger than my otouto-kun. She's a young girl with small breasts.

She has scarlet red hair that matches her eyes. And her breasts are small. For the first time in this entire series, a character was given small breasts.

She's the daughter of the Cloud Company but I feel like this wasn't given enough weight in this volume.

By the way, the Cloud Company is a trading company that deals primarily with nobles. Recently, her family's business has fallen into crisis due to lowered sales.... They plan on returning to their former power once Akane graduates.

Well, that's the end of the character summaries.

Let's meet again in the next volume!